

“What We Ought to do is Say Thanks”

II Thessalonians 1:3-7

- Rabbinical teaching finds that a person should always refrain from complaint – it is sufficient that one is still alive for gratitude to be present and expressed.

One of the earliest phrases or words that a child should learn is “thank you.”

Those who find it _____ to say thank you to other human beings for their help will also find it difficult to say thank You to God for the gift of life and all that accompanies that gift.

When we thank one another—we are actually _____ them in their faith—in their use of their spiritual gifts.

I. The Encouragement of Praise (v. 3-4)

A. Paul Practiced What He Preached.

The difference between the two churches was the Thessalonica church was willing to see the errors of their ways and make the necessary corrections. The Galatian church wanted to keep falling back into their old behavior and not wanting the change what Paul was trying to teach them.

I Thessalonians 5:18: **in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

B. Encouragement or Flattery? (v. 3b)

One way to keep from flattering others is to always see the spiritual gifts that are being _____ by that person and encourage them in using their gifts. We do this not only by our words but by our support of that person’s ministry.

C. Paul Encouraged Them in a Number of Ways (v. 3c-4)

1. Their faith was growing as they continued to _____ in the Lord more and in themselves less.
2. Their love was abounding and evidenced by their kindness to each other and the people outside the church as well.
3. Their patience was increasing as the conflicts and squabbles became less and less among them.
4. Their testimony was helping others.

II. The Encouragement of Prayer (v. 11-12)

A. Paul Prayed for Their Worthiness (v. 11a) we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling.

I Peter 1:6-7

B. Paul Prayed for Their Walk (v. 11b)

1. Paul prayed that they might do what God _____ for them to do when He saved them.

WE ARE SAVED TO SERVE NOT OBSERVE.