

Gratitude in the Life of Paul

Gratitude for Brethren: Part 2

- I. Gratitude for Brethren Who Pray (2 Corinthians 1:11)
- A. Paul had learned by experience to trust God.
 - B. While his faith was in God, he also realized how dependent he was upon the prayers of his brethren.
 - C. Paul believed in the power of prayer and wanted his brethren to pray for him (1 Thessalonians 5:25).
 - D. Naturally, Paul was grateful for brethren who prayed.
 - E. Also, when prayers are answered, those who prayed them become people of gratitude.
 - F. We should be people of prayer (cf. Acts 12:5; Phil. 1:19).
 - G. We should give thanks when God answers our prayers.
 - H. We should be thankful for brethren who pray.
- II. Gratitude for Brethren Who Serve (2 Corinthians 8:16-17)
- A. Titus was a diligent work and a loyal helper of Paul.
 - B. He was also a faithful servant of the church.
 - C. Paul was thankful for Titus and all brethren who serve.
 - 1. In acceptance of the exhortation – because God commands it
 - 2. With a heart of earnest care – love and devotion to God and brethren
 - 3. Of one's own accord – voluntary service out of desire
 - D. We should serve in the same way (cf. Matt. 20:26-28; Gal. 5:13; Isa. 6:8; 1 Cor. 9:16-17; 1 Pet. 5:2).
 - E. We should be thankful for brethren who serve.
- III. Gratitude for Brethren Who Give (2 Corinthians 9:11-13)
- A. Much of the book of 2 Corinthians has to do with giving.
 - 1. Giving is a command of God (1 Cor. 16:1-2).
 - 2. Giving is an act of worship (1 Cor. 16:1-2).
 - 3. Giving is intimately related to gratitude.
 - B. Paul encourage these brethren to give purposefully, bountifully, willingly, and cheerfully.
 - C. He reminded them that God would take care of them and provide for them.
 - D. The result would be gratitude.
 - 1. From the giver when he was blessed
 - 2. From the recipient when he was blessed
 - 3. From all when they recognized their fellowship
 - E. Therefore, Paul was filled with gratitude for brethren who gave.
 - F. We should be thankful for the same.
 - G. And, we should give as God has instructed.

- IV. Gratitude for Brethren Who Are Grateful! (Acts 20:35)
- A. Paul was privileged to record a statement of Jesus that no other New Testament writer documented.
 - B. This statement is important to remember in connection with gratitude.
 - C. It is a blessed thing to give gratitude to God and to others.
 - D. Paul was grateful for Christians who were grateful (Col. 3:15; 4:2; Eph. 5:4, 20; 1 Tim. 2:1; 1 Thes. 5:18).
 - E. We must realize the blessedness of giving thanks.