

Gratitude in the Life of Paul

Gratitude for Fellowship with Brethren

- I. Definition of Fellowship
 - A. The Greek word is *koinonia* (κοινωνία).
 - B. It means, “Partnership, participation, association, community; joint participation.”
 - C. Thayer defined it as: “The share which one has in anything.”
 - D. It is translated in the KJV as:
 - 1. Fellowship (12 times)
 - 2. Communion (4 times)
 - 3. Communicate and communication (1 time each)
 - 4. Contribution and distribution (1 time each)
 - E. It involves our relationship with one another.
 - F. It includes our collective, congregational worship with one another.
 - G. It incorporates our giving and distributing of money and goods to one another.

- II. Benefits of Fellowship
 - A. Fellowship is a source of encouragement (1 Thessalonians 3:6).
 - B. Fellowship is a source of comfort (1 Thessalonians 3:7-8).
 - C. Fellowship is a source of joy (1 Thessalonians 3:9-12).
 - D. Fellowship is a source of support (Philippians 1:3-5; 4:10-18).
 - E. Fellowship is a source of confidence (Philippians 1:6).
 - F. Fellowship is a source of affection (Philippians 1:7-8).
 - G. Fellowship is a source of strength (Acts 28:15).
 - H. Therefore, we should...
 - 1. Desire fellowship with our brethren (Romans 12:10)
 - 2. Labor to create and maintain fellowship with our brethren
 - 3. Give thanks for fellowship with our brethren (Romans 16:3-4)