

**A PATTERN OF THANKSGIVING
EPHESIANS 1:15-16**

Introduction

Here in our text we see Paul giving thanks for the believers in the Church that was at Ephesus.

As we look at the ministry and writings of the Apostle Paul, we find in him a **pattern of thanksgiving and appreciation for the saints!**

Sometimes we are not as thankful as we should be, are we?

Sometimes we fail to express our appreciation for what Christ has done for us especially through fellow believers in Christ! Paul was very appreciative of his co-laborers in the ministry! In fact, I think in Paul we find a pattern of thanksgiving that is worthy of following!

Philippians 3:17—"Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample."

Philippians 4:9—"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

I want to share with you some examples of Paul's appreciation for other believers in his life! What were some of those things? Let's begin in the Book of Romans 1:8.

I. PAUL'S PATTERN TO THE ROMAN CHURCH!

A. His Thanksgiving For And Prayers For Them!

Romans 1:8-12—"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."

B. His Thanksgiving For Future Deliverance In Christ!

Romans 7:24-25—"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

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C. His Thanksgiving For The Help And Sacrifice Of Other Individual Believers!

Romans 16:3-4—"Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles."

**II. PAUL'S PATTERN TO THE CORINTHIAN CHURCH!
(1 Corinthians 1:4-7)**

A. He Was Thankful For The Grace Given Them By Christ!

- 1. It Was Grace That Brought Their Salvation!**
- 2. It Was Grace That Brought Their Spiritual Growth!**
- 3. It Was Grace That Brought Their Spiritual Gifts!**

**B. He Was Thankful To God For The Victory Over Death, Sin And The Law Through Jesus Christ!
(1 Corinthians 15:57)**

**C. He And Others In Asia Were Thankful For The Prayers And Gifts Of The Corinthian Church On Their Behalf!
(2 Corinthians 1:8-11)**

Those that **prayed** and those that **gave** demonstrated their **love and care** by their actions!

Paul was thankful for that sacrificial giving!
(2 Corinthians 9:11-15)

**III. PAUL'S PATTERN TO THE EPHESIAN CHURCH!
(Ephesians 1:15-16)**

A. He Was Thankful For Their Faith!

B. He Was Thankful For Their Love Unto All The Saints!

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**C. He Encouraged Thanksgiving In Them!
(Ephesians 5:1-4; 15-20)**

IV. PAUL'S PATTERN TO THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH!

**A. He Was Thankful For Their Partnership In The Gospel!
(Philippians 1:3-6)**

**B. He Encouraged Them To Make Thanksgiving A Part Of
A Peace Inducing Prayer Life! (Philippians 4:6-19)**

V. PAUL'S PATTERN TO THE COLOSSIAN CHURCH!

A. He Gave Thanks To God For Them! (Colossians 1:3)

1. For Their Faith! (Vs 4)

2. For Their Love! (Vs 4)

3. For Their Hope! (Vs 5)
Hope = Sure expectation

4. For The Source Of Their All! (Vs 12-14)

**B. He Encouraged Them To Be Established And To Abound
In Their Faith With Thanksgiving! (Colossians 2:6-7)**

**C. He Encouraged Them To Put On Some Things In Their
Lives As Believers, Of Which Thankfulness Was
Included! (Colossians 3:12-17)**

**D. He Encouraged Them To Continue And Watch In Prayer
With Thanksgiving! (Colossians 4:2)**

VI. PAUL'S PATTERN TO THE THESSALONIAN CHURCH!

**A. He Was Thankful For The Faithful Ministry Of Fellow
Believers! (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)**

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**B. He Was Thankful For Believers Who Responded
Positively To The Word Of God! (1 Thessalonians 2:13)**

**C. He Was Thankful For The Joy Fellow Believers Brought
Him! (1 Thessalonians 3:6-13)**

**D. He Was Thankful For God's Evident Working In Their
Lives. (2 Thessalonians 1:3-4)**

**E. He Told Them That Giving Thanks Was The Will Of God
For Them. (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)**

Conclusion

Are you thankful for other believers that the Lord has used in your life?
*Philippians 3:17—"Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them
which walk so as ye have us for an ensample."*

*Philippians 4:9—"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received,
and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."*

**If you are a believer, what is there in your life that other believers can be
thankful for? If the Apostle Paul were to write us a letter what would he
have to give thanks for?**

Your testimony? Your help and sacrifice for others?

Your spiritual growth and enrichment of other believers?

Your tangible demonstrations of care for others?

Your faithful, sacrificial giving for the cause of Christ?

Your partnership in spreading the gospel?

Your faithful ministry?

Your positive response to the Word of God?

The joy that you bring to others lives?

Your love for the Lord and other believers?

Does the peace of God rule in your heart today?

If not, you will have a hard time being thankful! The peace of God
cannot rule in your heart until you allow The Prince Of Peace in your
heart and life!