

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 1:8 Grateful for God's Grace in Others

Spiritual communion of saints stirs gratitude to God for His grace in others.

1) Gratitude is a priority of the Christian life.

- a) "First"
- b) Rom. 6:17; 7:25
- c) Ingratitude and idolatry (1:21)
- d) **Application:**
 - i) "Grace" (charis) and "thanks" (eucharistia) are not only semantically related, the one gives rise to the other.
 - ii) Are you known for grumbling or gratitude?
 - iii) Are your prayers weighted on the front end with gratitude?

2) Gratitude is expressed to God through Jesus Christ.

- a) "I thank my God through Jesus Christ"
- b) Rom. 7:25; Col. 3:17; Heb. 13:15
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Do you approach God with reverence for His holiness?
 - ii) Do you approach God knowing the cost Jesus paid?
 - iii) Do you approach God knowing the present intercessions of Jesus for you?

3) Gratitude is expressed for all God's people.

- a) "for all of you"
- b) 1 Cor. 1:4; Eph. 1:16; Phil. 1:3; Col. 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:2; 2:13; 2 Thess. 1:3; 2:13; Philemon 4
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Are you uncharitably critical of fellow Christians or graciously grateful?
 - ii) Are you invested in the lives of others for their Christian maturity?

4) Gratitude is expressed for the public faith of God's people.

- a) "because your faith is proclaimed in all the world"
- b) 1 Thess. 1:2-10
- c) Faith is a gift of God otherwise Paul would not thank God for it.
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Are you jealous of the influence of other Christians/churches or are you grateful for your station and theirs in God's providence?
 - ii) Are you controlled more by fear of the world's mantra or by gratitude for the proclamation of the gospel by word and deed through the Church?

Spiritual communion of saints stirs gratitude to God for His grace in others. How can you grow deeper in the communion of saints?

Doxology: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 118:1)