

Romans 1:8 - The Christian's Life of Thankful Prayer.

Sermon outline from Sunday, June 12, 2016

Introduction. 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

- I. The Christian's Life of Thankful Prayer is dazzled with God and His Truth: "First."
- II. The Christian's Life of Thankful Prayer Thanks God: "I thank my God."
- III. The Christian's Life of Thankful Prayer is intimately Close with God: "thank **my** God."
- IV. The Christian's Life of Thankful Prayer is Through Jesus: "through Jesus Christ."
- V. The Christian's Life of Thankful Prayer is Thankful for Biblical Reasons: True faith's Reputation: Romans 1:8b.
 - A. This Faith is a genuine, Saving Faith.
 1. What saving faith is not: subjective religious feeling, wishful thinking, optimism, or human theories of success (church size, church programs, or church budget).
 2. What saving faith is.
 - a. It believes Jesus' gospel (of which He is the center): Romans 1:2, 3, 5.
 - b. It is the work of God, for which He is thanked: Romans 1:7, 8.
 - B. This Faith is a contagious Faith.

Conclusion.

- Thank God for our church ministry. Pray that our church ministers to those inside and accepts the ministry of those from the inside, and that our church has a ministry in the community and beyond. Pray for our members serving and for our missionaries.

Questions for Thought and Discussion.

1. From this message, what was the truth that stuck out the most to you?
2. It was said of the English author, Thomas Hardy, that if he went to a country field of wild-flowers that he would always see, not the wildflowers, but the pile of manure in the corner. What do you look for mostly in life: the things for which to be thankful or the things to criticize?
3. What is God's will according to 1 Thessalonians 5:18?
4. Can you think of any Biblical examples of people who were so dazzled with Jesus? Hint: John 12:1-8.
5. Are you known for your enthralling, enthusiastic, dazzling relationship with God? What do people see mostly?
6. Do you find yourself thanking God at least twice as much as you thank others? Why or why not? How does 1 Corinthians 15:10 apply to this?
7. Why is it important to have an intimate, close relationship with God?
8. What are your thoughts about the following verses: 1 Chronicles 28:9, 20; Psalm 18:2; Jeremiah 31:33; John 17:3; Philippians 4:19?
9. Do you feel like you know the Person of God? Do you have a close, intimate, communing relationship with Him? Do you realize His presence? What can a person do to help them have a close personal relationship with God as mentioned in the preceding verses?
10. What do the following verses say about our access to God: John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19?
11. What is the difference between these verses and mere optimism: Mark 9:23; Matthew 17:19, 20?
12. According to Romans 1:2, 3, 5, 8, how do we know that the Roman Christians' faith was in Jesus' gospel?
13. How do you evaluate other Christians and their testimonies? How do many people evaluate Christianity based on our American culture. How much of this is truly Biblical? What are you known for? When others think of you, what immediately comes to their minds?
14. How are Romans 1:8 and 1 Thessalonians 1:8 similar?
15. We evaluate advertising. How well does your life advertise the right message about Jesus: at home and at your job? Does your testimony lead to other Christians and non-Christians rejoicing? Does your faith lead others to ask how they can get Christianity?
16. John MacArthur said: "Are you thankful for others around you with whom you minister? The Christian who is trying to serve other Christians without gratitude in his heart of what the Lord has done in them, no matter how lacking others may be, will lack joy. Superficial believers are seldom satisfied and therefore seldom thankful. Because they focus on their own desires for things, they are more often resentful than thankful. A thankless heart is a selfish, self-centered, and legalistic heart." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?