

PRAYING THANKFULNESS

1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

11/24/24

I. PAUL'S PRAYER OF THANKFULNESS

- A. Thankfulness drives Paul's desire to pray
- B. Most often "need" drives our thanksgiving

II. CONTEXT

- A. Persecution & Paul's short stay
- B. Timothy's good report of the church

III. WHAT WAS PAUL THANKFUL FOR?

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 - "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

A. Paul is thankful for their steadfastness

1 Thessalonians 2:13 - "And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers."

B. Paul is thankful for their "acceptance" of God's word

- Acceptance – Welcoming

1 Thessalonians 3:8 - "For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord."

C. Paul is thankful for the effect of the Thessalonians

- Their faith produced thanksgiving and joy in Paul

D. Paul's response to this thankfulness was PRAYER

IV. THOUGHTS ON THANKFULNESS FROM THESSALONIANS

- A. There is a difference between eternal and temporal thankfulness
- B. Thankfulness is Godward

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. What are some eternal things that we can thank God for in this season?
3. Why is it important for us to differentiate between eternal and temporary thankfulness?
4. Why is it easy for us to get caught up in being thankful for temporary things instead of eternal things?
5. Why is a heart of thankfulness so important for us to cultivate as believers?

SPEND SOME TIME AS A GROUP EXPRESSING THANKFULNESS TO GOD FOR ALL OF HIS PROVISION THIS PAST YEAR.

6. What is one thing from the message or the group this week that you want to live out? How can the group be praying for you to accomplish that?