

How To Live a Thankful, Faithful, and Shameless Life (Romans 1:8-17)

Pastor Deric Thomas

(8) First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. (9) For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you (10) always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. (11) For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you-- (12) that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. (13) I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. (14) I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. (15) So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. (16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

(5) And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. (6) But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." (7) The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. (8) Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. (9) And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. (10) Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." (11) And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, (12) and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." (13) But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. (14) And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." (15) But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. (16) For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." (17) So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." (18) And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; (19) and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. [Acts 9:5-19 ESV]

Practical Application

1. The message of Christianity is the best news the world has ever heard. Let's tell everyone!
2. Because of what Jesus has done for us through the gospel we should live with thankful hearts. Are you characterized as having an attitude of gratitude? Christians should be the most thankful people in the world. How often do you tell others how thankful you are for them? How often do you give God thanks for all He has done?
3. Are you known for your faith? Is Hope Mountain known for its faith?
4. God is your greatest witness. He knows the sincerity of your heart.
5. Do you serve God from the deepest parts of your spirit?
6. Do you pray without ceasing? Do you live in communion with God and with deep care for others?
7. Do you know the difference in God's revealed will, will of desire, and sovereign will?
8. We can disobey God's revealed will. We can resist God's will of desire. But God's sovereign will (will of decree) will always be done.
9. Whenever God says no or wait to your prayers it is for a good reason. His way, timing, and sovereign will is perfect, and it is always for your good and His glory.

10. Do you long to be with God's people? Do you deeply desire biblical community? Do you love God's family (the church)?
11. God is relational. Ministry is relational. The best way to love and serve others is in person.
12. Do you engage people with a heart and posture of how can you best love, serve, and bless them? If not, start today.
13. What are your spiritual gifts? How are you using your spiritual gifts to love God and build up His body (church)? Every Christian has a ministry.
14. We all need the gifts of others to be the best we can be. We are dependent on God and His people to be spiritually healthy.
15. How do you personally try to encourage others in their lives and in their faith?
16. How are you growing in faithfulness and fruitfulness? Do you long for and pray for greater spiritual harvests?
17. When our good intentions meet God's prevention He has a better plan than we could ever imagine.
18. Relationships become more healthy when we genuinely share our hearts with others.
19. How bad do you want others to come to know Christ and grow in Christ? What drives you? Are you more passionate about Jesus Christ than you are about anything or anyone else?
20. Do you love all kinds of people? Do you minister to all kinds of people? Do you pray to have God's heart for all people? If not, start today.
21. Are you eager to preach the gospel? Are you passionate about bringing others to hear the gospel preached?
22. Do you love the people of the world? How are you trying to spread the gospel among the nations?
23. Are you ashamed of the gospel? Realize what an honor, privilege, and blessing it is to be God's child and to be His witness.
24. The gospel is the power of God to save people who are lost, enslaved, and broken.
25. Have you been saved? Have you experienced the power of the gospel? Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ and Son of God? Do you believe He died for your sins, was raised from the death, and is coming back again? Have you been baptized in water?
26. Do you love both Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles)? Pray for them today.
27. God is righteous and must punish sin. Jesus, the only righteous one, was punished for our sin. Jesus took our sin so we could receive His righteousness. The righteousness of Christ is imputed/accredited to those who trust in Him (by faith alone).
28. We are saved by faith and we are to live by faith. The Christian life is a life of faith from beginning to end, and into eternity. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.
29. If God can save Saul/Paul He can save anyone. God can save and forgive you no matter your past. God can use you in greater ways than you could ever imagine.
30. As we continue this series through the book of Romans invite others to hear this good news each Sunday.

Announcements

1. **Fall Festival:** This evening (Oct. 22) from 5-7! There will be games, food, and fun for the entire family.
2. **Children's AWANA Program and Adult Small Group Bible Study** are on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30.
3. **New Small Group:** Young Married Couples. Sunday's on campus @ 9am. See Ben and Lindsay Talley for details.
4. **Wednesday Night Thanksgiving Worship:** Gratitude: Prayer and Praise Service. Nov 1 from 6:30-7:30.
5. **Youth Event** (6th-12th): Reverb Event on November 17-18. Contact David Barrero for more details.
7. **Church-wide Potluck Lunch:** Our next Sunday potluck lunch will be next Sunday (October 29th). Enjoy a time of fellowship around the table with your faith family. Bring a covered dish that is enough to feed your family.