

“HOW TO HAVE AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE”

PHILIPPIANS

SATILLA BAPTIST CHURCH

WRAY, GA

Sunday Nov 26th 2017 AM Service

Pastor William Pope

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I. INTRODUCTION

- a. One of the joys of thanksgiving is celebrating God's goodness, thanking him for our families, and thanking him for many blessings.
- b. Although we all have many blessings to thank God for, the real key to an attitude of gratitude is to have the right perspective on our lives and our situations.
 - i. Story: A young woman wrote her mother from college: *Dear mom, sorry I haven't written sooner. My arm is broken and my left leg too. I broke them when I jumped from the second floor of my dormitory...when we had the fire. We were lucky. A young service station attendant saw the blaze and called the fire department. They were there in minutes I was in the hospital for a few days. Paul, the service station attendant came to see me every day. And because it was taking so long to get our dormitory liveable again, I moved in with him. He has been so nice and we are so happy together. However, I must admit that I am pregnant. Paul and I plan to get married just as soon as he can get a divorce. I hope things are fine at home. I'm doing fine and will write more when I get the chance. Love, your daughter, Susie. P.S. Mom, none of the above is true. But I did get a C in Sociology and flunked Chemistry. I just wanted you to receive this news in its proper perspective.*
- c. One of the greatest books in the Bible about having the proper attitude of gratitude was written by a man who was in the Mamertine Prison in Rome.
- d. Five Keys to having an Attitude of Gratitude Found in Letter by Paul to the Church at Phillipi written while Paul was in Prison in Rome: 1st Imprisonment, Acts 28, AD 60-62. (Prison Epistles: Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Phillipians)

II. Prioritize People not Possessions (1:3-8)

- a. Supplication for Others 1:3-6

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- i. Not the use of the word “You”
- ii. Paul is Thankful for People not for possessions
 - 1. Do You Love People and Use Possessions?
 - 2. Do You Love Possessions and Use People?
- iii. *Two of the effects of believing in Jesus are that the heart is loosened in relationship to things and tightened in its relationship to people.*” (John Piper, Be a Barnabas, Not an Ananias).
- b. Served Others 2:3-4
 - i. Meet the Needs of Others.
 - 1. *Others, Lord yes Others, let this my motto be, that as I live for others, I might live for thee.*
- c. Sacrificed for Others 2:17
 - i. No complaints about suffering but he rejoiced that he could pour out himself for others
- d. Sought Peace with others 2:1-2 4:2
 - i. He was a peacemaker
 - ii. Proverbs 6 (one of the seven things the Lord hates is one who sows discord among brethren.)

III. Pray (1:4; 4:6-7)

- a. Prayer for the Needs of Others 1:4, 9-11
- b. Blue Print for Prayer 4:6-7
 - i. Don’t Worry
 - ii. Instead prayer and supplication – pouring out of our heart to God
 - iii. Prayer with Thanksgiving and Praise
 - iv. Tell it to Jesus

Are you weary, are you heavy hearted?

Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus.

Are you grieving over joys departed?

Tell it to Jesus alone.

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***Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus,
He is a Friend that's well known.
You've no other such a friend or brother,
Tell it to Jesus alone.***

***Do the tears flow down your cheeks unbidden?
Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus.
Have you sins that to men's eyes are hidden?
Tell it to Jesus alone.***

***Do you fear the gathering clouds of sorrow?
Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus.
Are you anxious what shall be tomorrow?
Tell it to Jesus alone.***

***Are you troubled at the thought of dying?
Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus.
For Christ's coming kingdom are you sighing?
Tell it to Jesus alone.***

- v. *"A man is powerful on his knees." Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983)*
- vi. *"Prayer is not flight; prayer is power. Prayer does not deliver a man from some terrible situation; prayer enables a man to face and to master the situation." William Barclay (1907-1978)*
- vii. *"Prayer is not a way of making use of God; prayer is a way of offering ourselves to God in order that He should be able to make use of us. It may be that one of our great faults in prayer is that we talk too much and listen too little. When prayer is at its highest we wait in silence for God's voice to us; we linger in His presence for His peace and His power to flow over us and around us; we lean back in His everlasting arms and feel the serenity of perfect security in Him." William Barclay*

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IV. Trust in the Promises of God (1:6, 12-14, 19-26, 4:19)

- a. Paul certainly could have filled a letter with his many problems but instead he fills a letter with the Promises of God.
- b. Remains Positive, not Pessimistic
- c. Hymn: Standing on the Promises:
 - i. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.
 - ii. *Refrain*
 - iii. *Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.*
 - iv. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.
 - v. *Refrain*
 - vi. Standing on the promises I now can see
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
Standing on the promises of God.
 - vii. *Refrain*
 - viii. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.
 - ix. *Refrain*
 - x. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call

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Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

V. **Think Thoughts of Praise and Purity (3:1, 4:4, 8-9)**

- a. The Battle is in the mind
- b. Your thought life.
- c. Do bad thoughts simply fly in or do you allow them to make a nest?

VI. **Keep Pressing toward the Prize (3:12-14)**

a. **Hebrews 12:1-2**

- i. *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

b. Forward Look, not a backward gaze.

- i. Doubt looks back, fear looks around, but faith looks ahead
- ii. **You can look outward and be afraid, you can look backward and be bitter, You can look inward and be angry, or you can look upward and be encouraged.**

c. Lives life with a mission, not a memory.

Prioritize People

Pray

Trust in Gods' Promises

Think Thoughts of Praise and Purity

Keep Pressing toward the Prize