

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

November 20

2022

## The Thankfulness of Paul

With this being the time of the year in which many are putting special emphasizes upon thankfulness, let's go to the all inspired Scriptures, and let's reflect upon the thankfulness of the apostle Paul.

### Paul Was Thankful To God.

In Acts 28:15, we read that as the apostle Paul was making his way toward Rome he was welcomed by the brethren, and because of that, Luke records, "he thanked God and took courage." We also learn about Paul's thankfulness to God in 1 Corinthians 15:57, where Paul after informing about the resurrection and writing that the sting of death is sin penned, "*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Friends, just as Paul was thankful to God for what He had done, may we likewise be one who is thankful to God.

### Paul Was Thankful For God's People.

Not only was Paul thankful to God, but he was also thankful for God's people. In Romans 1:8, we read about Paul's thankfulness for the faith of the saints in Rome. We also read of his thankfulness for the saints in Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:4), for the saints in Ephesus (Ephesians 1:15-16), for the saints in Philippi (Philippians 1:3-4), for the saints in Colosse (Colossians

1:3), and in 1 Thessalonians 1:3 and 2 Thessalonians 1:3, we learn of Paul's thanks for the church in Thessalonica. Therefore, just as Paul was thankful for his brethren, may we likewise be a people who are thankful for the people of God.

### Paul Was Thankful To Preach The Gospel.

Another thing that Paul was thankful for was, he was thankful to preach the gospel of Christ. In 1 Timothy 1:12-13, Paul penned, "*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*" Now, not only was Paul thankful to preach the gospel of Christ, but he likewise was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16), and he defended the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:12-17).

### Paul Was Thankful For The Food He Ate.

One other example given in the Scriptures regarding the thankfulness of the apostle Paul is found in Acts 27. There we read about Paul's voyage to Rome and about the ship he was on being caught in a storm. However, in verse 33, we learn that those on the ship went fourteen days without food, and among the midst of panic Paul urged them to take nourishment, and then he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all (Acts 27:34-35). Friends, just as Paul gave thanks to God for his food, may we all likewise be one who does the same (1 Timothy 4:4-5).

My friends, let us all strive to be a thankful people (Colossians 3:15), and just as the apostle Paul expressed his thankfulness, may we all likewise be one who does the same, not just once a year, but rather each and every day (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

✍️ Brad Phillips

# Grumbling

Most of us do our share of complaining but few of us see it for what it is. Although we are more prone to condemn sin in others, we tolerate our own murmuring as nothing more than a poor attitude. In the Scriptures however God condemns it as a sin (1 Cor. 10:10; Phil. 2:14; Jas. 5:9). One example of its seriousness is found in Numbers 13 when Israel refused to enter the Promised Land, objecting that the people were stronger than they were. They thought of themselves as being like grasshoppers and the Canaanites as being giants (vv. 26-33).

Psalms 106:24-25 lists three sins that kept the Israelites in the wilderness: "Then they despised the pleasant land; They did not believe His word. But complained in their tents, And did not heed the voice of the LORD."

They "despised" the blessings of the Promised Land, they "did not believe" God's Word that all would be well there, and they "did not heed" His voice of direction. Instead, they sat in their tents and "complained." Is it and wonder they did not succeed?

God wanted to bless His people, yet they preferred to hang on to what was familiar to them. In this case it was the wilderness. So God did not allow any of that generation to enter the land. They ignored what they needed and complained about what they wanted. Guess what? God gave it to them!

Are you a grumbler or complainer? If so, seek God's help! It's a sad thing to try and find contentment with looking at the negative instead of the positive things before you. Don't deprive yourself with what you think you need, when God is longing to bless you with what is best!

*Shane Williams*

## THINGS WON'T CHANGE UNTIL HEARTS ARE CHANGED

The basic meaning of the word "repent" (which appears 46 times in my Bible) is to change. God "commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). So, all of us have some changes to make.

Changes must take place in one's heart before any other changes will be seen. Jesus told of a certain man who said to his son, "go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went" (Mt. 21:28-29). What did the son do when he repented? He changed his mind, and went. The change of heart brought about a change of action.

This is how it works. People will not change their **dress** until they change their hearts. Our **speech** will not change until our hearts are changed. **Attendance** will not improve until hearts are improved. **Lives** will not change until hearts are changed. Do you "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart" (Mt. 22:37)?

*John Edwards*

### Belleville church of Christ

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[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study .....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

#### Elders

David Lockhart ..... (317) 714-6213

David Thomas ..... (317) 945-8539

#### Evangelist

Brad Phillips ..... (765) 720-2816