

**Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia**

**Bible Study - November 19, 2020**

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**Title: "Have You Said Thank You Today?"**

**Scripture Reference: Ephesians 1:16**

**"[I] Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers."**

**I. Introduction**

A. Have you taken the time lately to give God thanks for your family, loved ones, friends, and associates that He has placed in your life?

B. We have so much to be thankful for, but do we really take time to thank God for the people in our lives?

C. If we are honest and willing to admit it, there are probably a few people you might wish were not in your life. However, even those who are difficult to deal with, sometimes can be a blessing if our focus changes. Hummmmmm ??

**II. Exposition/Discussion [Part I]**

A. In Ephesians 1:16, the phrase **"give thanks"** is included in an extended thanksgiving section of verses 15-23, and in the Greek text, these verses constitute one long sentence.

B. The phrase **"give thanks"** comes from the Greek word **eucharisteo** (pronounced **yoo-khar-is-teh'-o**), and is a compound of the words **eu** and **charis**.

C. The word **eu** means **good** or **well**. It denotes a general good disposition or an overwhelmingly good feeling about something.

D. The word *charis* is the Greek word for **grace** or **freely granted favor**.

E. When these two words are compounded into one, they form the word *eucharisteo*. This word expresses gratitude, *an outpouring of grace and of wonderful feelings that freely flow from the heart in response to someone or something*.

F. This is the word Paul used when he "**gave thanks**" to God for the Ephesian Church.

**Comment:** In practically all of Paul's epistles, he used the word *eucharisteo* when he "**gave thanks**" for the people he loved.

### **III. Exposition/Discussion [Part II]**

A. In Ephesians 1:16, note the frequency with which Paul gives thanks to God for those whom he loved, "[I] **Cease not to give thanks for you ...**"

B. This expresses the constancy of his thanksgiving in his prayers. In other words, Paul does not forget during his regular times of prayer to give thanks. He also expresses his gratitude to God for those whose faith and love are known to him.

**Comment:** Paul's constant prayer of thanksgiving undoubtedly expressed his concern for their health and welfare.

C. When Paul thought about the Ephesian Church, wonderful feelings of thanksgiving would well up on his heart for them.

The Greek text carries this idea in Ephesians 1:16:

*"Thanking God for you is so easy - it just flows out of my heart ever time I think of you. In fact, I never take a break from letting God know how I feel about you."*

#### IV. Exposition/Discussion [Part III]

A. In Colossians 1:3, Paul uses the same Greek word when he says, **"We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you."**

B. In First Thessalonians 1:2, Paul again uses the same Greek word when he prays for the Thessalonian believers: **"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers."**

C. In Second Thessalonians 1:3, he uses this word again when we says, **"We are bound to thank God always for you, ..."**

D. The fact that Paul used the word *eucharisteo* when he prayed for his dearest friends, reminds us that we must be thankful for the relationships God has put in our lives.

E. Whenever we think of our closest circle of friends, a deep sense of gratefulness, thanksgiving, and appreciation should rise up in us.

#### V. Summary

A. When you are praying for others, stop for a moment and reflect on all that God has done in your life through those who are closest to you.

B. When you realize how precious and valuable those relationships have been (and prayerfully, continue to be) to you, you will be able

to freely, joyfully, and without hesitation, thank God for friends and loved ones.

### **A Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**"Lord, you have so wonderfully blessed me with the most wonderful friends - and right now, I want to thank you for placing such great people in my life. Long-term, real friends are such a treasure, so I want to say thank you. Help me to never lose sight of how blessed I am. Also, help me to never fail to show them how much I love and appreciate them!**

**I pray this in Jesus' name,**

**Amen!**

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the passages below by filling in the blank spaces. As always, each passage has been taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

"For God is my \_\_\_\_\_, whom I serve with my \_\_\_\_\_ in the gospel of his \_\_\_\_\_, that without \_\_\_\_\_ I make mention of you \_\_\_\_\_ in my \_\_\_\_\_."

**[Romans 1:9]**

"I thank my God upon every \_\_\_\_\_ of you, \_\_\_\_\_ in every \_\_\_\_\_ of mine for you all making \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_," **[Philippians 1:3,4]**

"We give \_\_\_\_\_ to God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ always for you." [Colossians 1:3]

"We give \_\_\_\_\_ to God \_\_\_\_\_ for you all, making \_\_\_\_\_ of you in our \_\_\_\_\_." [1 Thessalonians 1:2]

"We are \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your \_\_\_\_\_ growth \_\_\_\_\_, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other \_\_\_\_\_;" [2 Thessalonians 1:3]

### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

1. How long has it been since you stopped to thank God for the people He has placed in your life?
2. When you pray, do you focus only on the "problem people" who bother or agitate you and steal your peace? Or do you always make certain to take the time to thank God for the faithful ones?
3. Write down a list of all the people God has especially used to help you in life. Then, stop to tell the Lord how grateful you are that He sent each one of them into your life.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin