

The Apostle Paul on Giving Thanks
(Philippians 4:9)

Introduction:

1. In Philippians 4:9a the apostle Paul instructed the Christians in Philippi to do the things they had learned, received, heard, and seen in him.
 - a. The things they had learned, received, and heard refer to Paul's teaching.
 - b. The things they had seen refer to Paul's example [the things he did].
 - c. In this verse Paul taught the Christians in Philippi to follow his instructions and to follow his example.
2. In Philippians 4:9b Paul revealed a special blessing available to those who follow his instructions and example -- "*the God of peace shall be with you.*"
3. In our lesson we are concentrating on an important activity that Paul included in his teaching and example -- "giving thanks."
4. Let us first consider . . .

Discussion:

I. PAUL'S EXAMPLE OF GIVING THANKS

- A. Paul often expressed his gratitude to God.
 1. He thanked God for his brethren and friends.
 - a. Philippians 1:3-4
 - b. Colossians 1:3-4
 2. He thanked God for food during a storm (Acts 27:35-36).
 3. He thanked God when his friends met him on his way to Rome (Acts 28:15).
 4. He thanked God for the victory He gives (1 Corinthians 15:57).
 5. In addition to being grateful to God, . . .
- B. Paul was thankful to Christ for saving him and for putting him into the ministry, even though he had abused the Lord's followers (1 Timothy 1:12-17).
- C. These passages and many more indicate that Paul was thankful.
- D. We learn from 1 Corinthians 11:1 why we must follow his example.
- E. Let us turn our attention to . . .

II. PAUL'S TEACHING ON GIVING THANKS

- A. In his letters Paul often taught Christians to be thankful.
 1. Colossians 2:6-7; 4:2
 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
 3. 1 Timothy 2:1
- B. We learn from 1 Corinthians 14:37 why Paul's instructions must be obeyed.
- C. Paul associated giving thanks with other subjects, including:
 1. giving (2 Corinthians 9:6-7, 12-15)
 2. singing (Ephesians 5:19-20)
 3. avoiding anxiety (Philippians 4:6)
 4. having the peace of God in the heart and being in the body (Colossians 3:15)
 5. submitting to the Lord's authority (Colossians 3:17).

Conclusion:

1. We have shown from the Scriptures how Paul was thankful and how he taught the Lord's followers to be thankful.
2. According to:
 - a. Philippians 4:9a, we are to follow Paul's example and his instructions
 - b. Philippians 4:9b, those who do so will receive a special blessing.
3. In closing, let us consider how Paul thanked God for the way some people in Rome changed (Romans 6:17-18).
4. He showed earlier in Romans 6:3-4 when this change takes place.
5. Have you been baptized into Christ?