

Recognition of God's Servants — 10/10/21

Their Faith Follow

TEXT- 1 Th 1:1-3 *Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;*

INTRO — There are over 100 names of men and women that were associated with the Apostle Paul and labored with him in the early church.

I. Labor of Love

Heb 6:1 *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,*

Heb 6:10 *For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*

- **The Bible speaks of** “Ye that are spiritual” “Perfect in every good work to do his will” “Mighty in spirit” “Strong meat”
- “The world will know we are Christians by our love.” **John 13:35**
- Love is giving. It is a selfless love.
- “We ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.”

A strong Christian serves others!

II. A Helper in the Church

Rom 16:1-4 *I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: 2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a **succourer** of many, and of myself also. 3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.*

- “**The Bible speaks of the gift of helps.**”
- **Pastor what can I do?**
- **Strong Christians are looking for things to do to serve the Lord.**

Pastor wanted to hire a janitor. The qualification was. “I need someone who can see dirt.”

Strong Christians see what can be done and needs to be done for the Lord. They don't have to wait on directions before they get involved.

They see what needs to be done and they do it.

There are always those in the church that you can count on to help with whatever is going on and whatever is needed.

College students and teens to learn this lesson.

III. Serving Others

Acts 9:36-39 *Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works Some are known for their faithful service.*

- **The woman with the alabaster box anointed the head of Jesus.**

She hath done what she could: Mark 14:8

Mark 9:35 . . . *If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.*

"Others, Lord, yes, others, Let this my motto be, Help me to live for others, That I may live like Thee. "Help me in all the work I do To ever be sincere and true, And know that all I'd do for You Must needs be done for others.

IV. Students of The Word

Acts 17:10-12 *And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.*

Too many Christians lack discernment.

Heb 5:14 . . . *who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Pro 1:4 *To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.*

- **Discernment protects against false teaching and lies**
- **Discernment is linked to spiritual growth**
- **Discernment helps us to know God's will.**
- **Discernment improves our discipleship**

V. Pioneers

1 Co 16:15-18 *I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the **firstfruits** of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) 16 That ye submit yourselves unto such,*

Not everyone is a pioneer, but someone must be.

Someone must be the first one

A vision means you can see what needs to be done in the future not just what needs to be done today.

VI. Charitable Giving

2 Co 8:1-5 *Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; 2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto*

Acts 20:35 . . . remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

Luke 6:38 *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

Ecc 11:1 *Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.*

Gal 6:7 *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

2 Co 9:6-7 *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

VII. Giving your all

- **God owns everything**

Luke 21:1-4 *And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. 2 And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. 3 And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: 4 For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.*

- **Run the race to win**

1 Co 9:24 *Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.*

- **Do it with thy might and power**

Ecc 9:10 *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

“Wherever you are be all there.” Jim Elliot

Col 3:23 *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

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