

Yes ... Be Thankful

As Paul begins a letter to the Thessalonians, he starts with a prayer of thanksgiving. He mentions three attributes he remembers of them before God. They are "work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope" (1 Thessalonians 1:3).



God is present everywhere (omni-present)

(Psalm 139:7-12; Jeremiah 23:23-24)

church of Christ?

First, I am thankful for her "**Work of Faith.**" This is a work that comes *from* faith. They have genuine faith, not a passive faith. On the other extreme, they are not working for selfish matters. They have a sincere faith which is producing good works as faith should do. Paul uses the same word for work in 5:13, talking about the work of the leadership. He will speak of faith in 3:2-10 when questioning whether they would stay faithful. Please think about all spiritual leaders. This would include elders, deacons, preachers, Bible class teachers, and others who provide examples we can look to of service for the Lord. Consider all our members and the example they set. Most may be the weakest physically, but the strongest spiritually. Are you thankful for our congregation?

Second, I am thankful for her "**Labor of Love.**" By this, the apostle means labor that precedes from their love: their love for God and their love for each other! Labor is used in 2:9 and 3:5 when talking about their labor as teachers. Paul uses love in 3:11-13 when telling them that their love was to increase toward one another. I think about the members of this congregation who work for the Lord. All of these people have experience and talent. They choose to be a part of this congregation because of the great labor of training others. When I think of the love within this congregation I think of the encouragers, the fellowship and get-together workers, and the sweet people who write cards, pray, and say kind things - often behind the scenes. Are you thankful too?

Third, I am thankful for her "**Steadfastness of Hope.**" Paul is praising them for remaining faithful because of hope. In fact, they are able to remain faithful only because of that hope. The Thessalonians did face opposition (2:14; 3:6) which brings about the possibility for falling or failing. Realize that Jesus will one day return and deliver us to something better (2:19 & 4:13). Think of how many members have dealt with emotional, financial, physical, or spiritual difficulties and challenges. Despite all the hurdles, we have so many people providing an example of steadfast service built on their hope in the Lord. Are we truly thankful?

When we come together, love each other, build each other up, and appreciate each and every one in this congregation, the Lord is glorified and He uses us for His purposes. Amen!

A person once said, "Losers assemble in little groups and complain about the players and coaches in other little groups. Winners assemble as a team" (Bill Parcells) I am more than thankful for this "team," this body, this family. I am thankful for the Pottsboro congregation! Are you?

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and Gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us!

Bday/Anniv Lunch: The 2nd Sunday...
Friday Bible Study: 7 to 8 PM; Abiding in commands of the Lord...
Kids Holiday Party: Saturday (12/14) from 1-3PM at the building. We are baking cookies & doing crafts.
ADULT Holiday Party: Sunday (12/15) after evening services. Finger food and gift exchange (9 to 12 dollars please).