

SERIES: GRATITUDE & BLESSINGS

DATE: Sunday, November 20, 2022

SERMON: A Roadmap for Gratitude

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 1:12-26

[12] Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.

[13] As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

[14] And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

[15] It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

[16] The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

[17] The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

[18] But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

[19] for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

[20] I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

[21] For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

[22] If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

[23] I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

[24] but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

[25] Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

[26] so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

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How can I live gratefully in difficult times?

1. _____ Christ above _____.

2. Be _____ with life and with yourself.

- Sometimes you have to _____.
- Accept your _____ but _____ them also to Christ as Lord.
"I want even my emotions to please Christ."

3. _____ God now for the _____ to _____ Him.

- **Philippians 1:20** *I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.*

4. _____ for what God _____ even in difficulty.

- **Philippians 1:12-14** *Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.*
- **Nehemiah 2:18a** *I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me.*

5. _____ God to _____ you through.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me – even this!" (Philippians 1:13)

6. _____ Him in _____ circumstances.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:18** *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

Lagniappe

We had our last **Congregational Meeting** for 2022 Wednesday night. It was well attended and characterized by our normal positive and encouraging attitudes.

Here are some highlights:

First, we reviewed the proposed 2023 budget. The proposed budget is an increase of 3.46% - or \$257,450. Though the increase is a substantial amount, the budget continues to be based on our conservative model.

The increases are in four basic areas: staff salary and benefits, property casualty insurance increase of \$70,000, missions, and security costs.

The budget will be voted on in all weekend worship services on December 3rd & 4th. It will be a voice vote without discussion as required by our bylaws.

Second, we affirmed 15 men to serve as deacons for the two year period of 2023–2024. They are:

Brian Baughman

Tom Chambliss

Jason Coffey

Jim Cook

Ed Covington

Syd Gibbs

Daniel Lombardo – newly serving

Scot Martin – newly serving

Jim Moreau

Chuck Rich

Scott Ritter – to be ordained

Daniel Roberts

Don Saucier

Kevin Seal

Robert Vinson

These men join the 14 other Deacons who are serving out their 2 year term ending 2023.

We also elected ministry team members who will begin serving in the new year.

Third, we discussed our *debt retirement*, which is moving along nicely, the *Anchored Campaign*, which is ahead of schedule, plans to *renovate Central Hall and 500 hallway upstairs*, as well as other plans for using the Anchored funds.

I tell my pastor friends that FBC Covington is an “easy place” to be a pastor. It really is. You make it that way, and I thank you for it.

God has great plans for our future, and I look forward to seeing what He will do in us and through us.

