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On
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Paul The Appreciator:

Six times in 95 verses he refers to thankfulness.

“Abounding With Thanksgiving” (2:7)

“We Always Thank God” (1:3)

“Giving Thanks To The Father” (1:12)

“Be Thankful” (3:15)

“Being Watchful In It With Thanksgiving” (4:2)

“Giving Thanks To God The Father” (3:17)

Colossians 1:3-8

In Prayer (3)

Through Praise (4-6a)

For Progress (6b-8)

I. In Prayer (3)

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers (I Thessalonians 1:2).

For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.
(Romans 1:9-10)

In Circumstances

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (I Thessalonians 5:18)

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints (Ephesians 6:18)

II. Through Praise (4-6a)

1. They Heard The Gospel (5 & 6)

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? (Romans 10:14)

2. They Understood God's Grace (6)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

(Ephesians 2:8-9)

3. They Knew The Word Of Truth (5)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6)

4. Your Faith In Jesus Christ (4)

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” (John 14:6)

Evidences Of Salvation

Faith – Upward

Love – Outward

Hope - Forward

A. Faith

For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving

(Colossians 2:5-7)

B. Love

And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us (I John 3:23)

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love (Galatians 5:6)

C. Hope

Colossians 1:23a & 27

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. (I John 3:2-3)

III. For Progress (6b-8)

A. Fruitfulness

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God (Philippians 1:9-11)

B. Faithfulness

Epaphras:

- 1. Discipled Them (1:7)**
- 2. Prayed For Them (4:12)**
- 3. Travelled To Rome On Their Behalf (4:12)**

“Overflowing With Thankfulness”

Our Default Setting:

“And Be Thankful” (3:15c).