

What was the point of the message on Sunday? Not sure? Well, if for some reason you missed it,

Here's The Point ...

“Thankful People are Thoughtful People”

1. Mindful of Our Personal Connection with God

If you're a sports fan who has a personal connection with your team, then you know how annoying it is when you're around “Bandwagon Fans.” Fans who cheer for your team only because they happen to be winning, but what happens when your team is losing? Those fans are gone. How we relate to God in the losing seasons of life is what reflects the type of connection we have with Him. Paul was no “Bandwagon Christian.” Even in the midst of prison, he writes, “I thank *my* God ...” (Phil. 1:3a). Paul had a personal connection with the living and true God, and he knew it was all of grace. Entitled people are often thankless people. When we think we deserve a certain thing, we are never grateful for it. But it's when we are mindful that our personal relationship with God is all of grace and all of Christ that causes to say, in the midst of suffering, “I thank *my* God.”

2. Mindful of Our Community with Others in the Gospel

If we're honest, far too many of our thoughts are only about ourselves and our circumstances, especially when we are facing hard times. So what is driving the Apostle Paul to give thanks? He's in prison, yet he's praying. He's chained, yet he's crying out to God in thanks for His work of grace in the lives of others. He's mindful that he belongs to a community greater than his personal problems – a community that remembers each other in prayer and is tied together through the gospel. From a natural standpoint, Paul had nothing in common with the church in Philippi, but what they did have in common was grace, they had Christ, they had ... the truth of the gospel. When our thoughts are directed away from our individual selves to the gospel community we get to be a part of, we will be driven to remember our brothers and sisters in the Lord and give thanks. And the best way to remember our family and friends is to remember them in prayer.

3. Mindful of Our Certainty that God finishes what He Starts

We all know that project we never got around to finishing. That venture begun with the highest of hopes, but somewhere along the line, for whatever reason, we lost interest in it and set it aside. Humans are notorious for starting what they can't finish, but not God. If we think we started the work of salvation, we'll have doubts if we'll ever be finished. But in verse 6, Paul is mindful that God finishes what He starts. The God, who started the work of grace in our lives, is the God who will finish it. And it's this certainty that will drive us to give thanks. God begins the work by giving us faith to believe the gospel (see Eph. 2:8, 9) and then the perseverance to keep believing it (see Jn. 6:37). God has not, will not, or ever will set you aside. He's at work right now in your life, and those besetting sins and struggles will one day be brought to completion when we see Him face to face. To God be the glory!