

Mid-week Stewardship Thought

With Thanksgiving

The apostle Paul had plenty of challenges and heartaches. He was beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, without a home of his own, in danger from the elements, from enemies, and, sadly, in danger from false brothers. He suffered from hunger, the cold, and lack of clothing. He felt the pressure of concern for the new churches he established and served. (See 2 Corinthians 11:16-33.)



Surely Paul had a right to complain, not just to those who brought these calamities upon him, but to God Who allowed them! So we might think, anyway. Not so! Paul boasted in his weakness, in the circumstances over which he had no control, for he knew God was in control. *“That is why,”* Paul said, *“for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong”* (2 Corinthians 12:10).

Paul taught the new Christians to depend on God for all their needs: *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God”* (Philippians 4:6). That two-word phrase in the middle is easy to miss: *“with thanksgiving.”* And why should we not pray with thanksgiving, knowing we have a gracious God Who delights to bless us! Why should we not pray with thanksgiving, knowing we have a God Who has spared not even His own Son (Romans 8:32)! Should we lose all, we still pray with thanksgiving that nothing can separate us from our Savior (Romans 8:38-39).

Prayer: Dear Father, thank You for Your generosity to me. Help me to be thankful. Amen.