

Message: Experiencing and Spreading Thanksgiving

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:12-4:16 ('84 NIV)

Teacher: Bob Cargo

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The grace of God causes thankfulness

The text, its meaning and its context

The application of the text

1. My own giving of thanks is fed and fueled by daily focusing on, believing and re-experiencing the gospel of grace.

2. Thanksgiving spreads and overflows as we daily spread the gospel of grace.

All of this is for the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 ('84 NIV)

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.

¹⁵ For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.

¹⁶ To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?

2 Corinthians 3:4-9

⁴ Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God.

⁵ Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

⁶ He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

⁷ Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was,

⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?

⁹ If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!

2 Corinthians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

¹⁸ And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

^{4:1} Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

2 Corinthians 4:5-9

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;

⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

2 Corinthians 4:15

¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.