



THANKFUL FOR...
“My Support” Part 2
1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
November 23, 2014

3 Truths About Our Need For Support...

1. We Were Created to Be in Communion with Our Heavenly Father
2. We Were Created to Be in Community with One Another
3. We are Created to Help Connect Others to their Creator and Then Help Them Connect with a Community of Believers

Why We Should Be Thankful for The Support of Our Church Family...

- ✓ We Are Connected to Each Other
- ✓ We Are Called to Follow Godly Leadership
- ✓ We Can Be At Peace With One Another
- ✓ We Can Be Challenged By Others
- ✓ We Are Cared For By Others
- ✓ We Are Carried By Others
- ✓ We Can Check (Practice) Our Patience
- ✓ We Are Compelled To Forgive
- ✓ We Can Be Cheered On By Others
- ✓ We Are Prayed For By Others



THANKFUL FOR...
“My Savior & His Sacrifice”
Romans 5
November 23, 2014

The Evidence of God’s Love

- ✓ His Supper
- ✓ His Sorrow & The Serpent
- ✓ His Submission
- ✓ His Shame
- ✓ His Scourging
- ✓ His Suffering
- ✓ God’s Silence
- ✓ His Sacrifice

The Effect It Has on You and Me

- ✓ Our Search
- ✓ Our Separation
- ✓ Our Sentence
- ✓ Our Salvation
- ✓ Our Security
- ✓ Our Sanctification
- ✓ Our Satisfaction

THANKFUL FOR...

“My Savior and His Sacrifice”

Romans 5

November 23, 2014 AM Worship

So we continue our series this morning Thankful and last week we talked about our decision to be thankful. This sets up this entire series.

1 Important Perspective: Giving Thanks

Ephesians 5:20 tells us *“giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (NRSV)

2 Important Phrases At All Times For Everything

1 Important Person: The Focus of our thankfulness - God the Father

The first thing we talked about was being **Thankful for Our Story – Thankful for Our Season to Share & Thankful for My Support**

This morning we turn our hearts towards the third thing we are thankful for and that is outside of Christ our Greatest and most important spiritual support we have – Our Church Family – both our LifeGroup, Our Church Family and then beyond other Churches in our area – other believers and Christ Followers around the nation and the world.

People ask me, how do we know that Jesus really loves us? I don't understand, I cannot feel that love?

Have you let in the incredible fact that Jesus Christ, the God of this Universe died for you? He loved you so much that He would rather die than live without you? He was willing to go to any lengths

You have heard me say, we need to let in over and over again how much God loves us, right here is what we need to let in. The awesome, gruesome, loving sacrifice of Jesus' death. I don't have to many people who would give their life for me, how about you?

The Evidence of God's Love

✓ His Supper

He is sharing the last moments with his disciples, yet knowing all the time that Judas was about to betray, he had already sold him for 30 pieces of silver. He was just waiting for the right moment. He also knows that in a few short hours, Peter would deny him, his disciples

would desert him, and he would give his life for the entire world. What a burden to carry.

✓ **His Sorrow & The Serpent**

He was sorrowful unto death. The prospect of dying on the cross was so intense that it almost killed Him in the garden. He was so overwhelmed that His emotions could take no more. He was human, he felt the pain!

His disciples could not even stay awake with Him to pray and help Him. He was all alone except for His Father.

The struggle became so great that he had a medical condition called haematidrosis. Under extreme emotional stress blood vessels expand so much that they break where they come into contact with the sweat glands. The person actually sweats blood!

Here Jesus makes the final decision. The garden was almost worse than the cross itself, for it was here in prayer where Jesus decided that He would not turn back. The angels came to strengthen him and He arose to face the most intense 24 hours known to anyone! The real battle that day was fought not on Calvary, but in prayer in the Garden!

He waged war no doubt with Satan himself once again, (refer back to the temptation at a later time!)

Between 400 & 700 men come to take Jesus including Judas who betrays with a kiss. The only one who can betray someone, is if they loved them and violated and tore up the trust they had. What a wound! What had He done that it required such an army?!

The crowd falls back and even down at the majesty and power of God at that moment when He says, I Am He!

Jesus could have called 12 legions of angels, 72,000! to save him, but He chooses not to!

✓ **His Submission**

He faced 6 different trials, 3 with Jewish authorities and 3 with Roman. These trials started somewhere after midnight and lasted until the next morning.

It was illegal for them to hold a trial at night, they could not ask him questions that would allow him to incriminate himself, and finally, they could not call witnesses to testify against the defendant until he had

witnesses speak in his defense. They broke their own laws because they wanted to get rid of Jesus. They brought false witnesses.

Jesus was then struck for the first time of many times that night which was also illegal.

Then blindfolded him and began to strike him and spit on him asking him who had hit Him. They did this over and over again, pulling his beard!

Peter then denies Him, the very one who said He wouldn't

Jesus faces His final trial around 5 a.m. and then sentence Him. They find him guilty on trumped up charges and sentence him to death, even though once again their law required 24 hours before sentencing. They could not sentence Him to die, so they had to go to the Roman government.

By this point He was exhausted, tired, bruised, bleeding, swollen, and no doubt broken hearted at what He was to face.

He then goes before Pilate for a time of questioning. He sends him to Herod who happened to be in town for the Passover. There He was mocked and made fun of by Herod's soldiers. Sent him back to Pilate.

✓ **His Shame**

In order to create great shame and embarrassment and a way to humiliate the person, much of this was done with no clothes!

He was abused verbally by the soldiers, the religious leaders, those passing by, and those that were there mourning and weeping. What a scene it must have been!

People hurl insult after insult, even tempting Him that if He will come off the cross they would believe? Satan comes again. What an incredible temptation that had to have been! But if He had, we had no access to God without the cross.

✓ **His Scourging**

This torture was gruesome and torturous. They removed all his clothes and tied him to a post where He was stretched out tight. They beat Him with a cat of nine tails, which consisted of nine straps of leather with a ball of leather at the end of each strap with bits of bone, iron, and chain to make the whip heavy and sharp. These guys who did this were professionals! They practiced. They drug it across his back ripping his

flesh in shreds. The Bible tells us that He was beaten beyond recognition.

They then took a crown of thorns and jammed it into his head and put the purple cape on his bleeding back. Imagine when they took that off cape off his back that had stuck to the wounds. They continued beating him and making fun of him, putting him on a chair giving him a reed and bowing down to him spitting on him, hitting him with the rod, even driving the crown of thorns deeper into his skull.

Pilate then presents Jesus to the crowd one more time hoping they will feel sorry for Him and allow Pilate to let him go. It does not work. He has the chance to set Him free, but he is was coward. Tried to wash himself free of what he had done. He let them crucify Jesus.

✓ **His Suffering**

The Romans had created the most cruel form of execution the world has ever known. They had become professionals at it. They knew how to inflict pain upon a person. They delighted in it! It was not quick like lethal injection or electrocution, it took most people days to day. Then they would leave their bodies up as a reminder to all not to repeat the crime.

After all this, Jesus was forced to carry His own cross, the crossbar to Calvary, the hill outside the city where people were crucified. It probably weighed over 200 pounds. He was so weak and physically exhausted that he could not even carry the cross. Someone had to carry it for him.

The cross was then placed on the ground, and Jesus was then stripped and placed on the cross. His wrists were taken and nailed into his wrists, very carefully so as to not tear the nerves or hit veins. His feet were nailed into the cross, one on top of the other. Then the cross was then lifted up and then dropped into a hole, which no doubt was jarring! He was now crucified, he begin to sag more and more. With His weight being held by the nails running through his wrists, excruciating pain shot up His arms. To try to relieve the pain, he would push up with his feet, wish of course had the nail in them as well. Trading back and forth the pain, until they could no longer move.

At this point, another phenomenon occurred as the arms fatigued: great

waves of cramps sweep over the muscles knotting them in a deep, relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push Himself upward. Hanging by his arms, the pectoral muscles are paralyzed and intercostal muscles are unable to act. Air can be drawn into the lungs, but it cannot be exhaled. Jesus fights to raise Himself to get even one short breath. Finally, carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream and the cramps subside. He would gasp shorts breath of air, experience hours of limitless pain, cycles of twisting joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from His lacerated back as He moves up and down the rough timber, a deep crushing pain in His chest as the pericardium slowly fills with fluid and begins to compress the heart. And this finally leads to death.

✓ **God's Silence**

As if that was not enough, He had no taken upon Himself, the one who knew no sin, the sins of the entire world. What was pure, holy, innocent, and blameless and now taken all our sin upon Himself, to be the ultimate sacrifice for the people that He loved! That caused the Father to not be able to look upon His one and only Son, the fellowship between the two had been broken because of the sin He had taken on though He was still fully God and fully man! My God, My God, why have you forsaken me??!! God turned his head, and darkness covered the land. There Jesus suffered the final three hours, alone! In the human sense abandoned except for a precious few, ever felt alone, abandoned, some of you are right there! Jesus knows how you feel?

✓ **His Sacrifice**

Jesus was not a martyr, He said very clearly in Scripture, no one takes my life, I give it willingly!

He said several things, the last of which was the triumphant cry, It Is FINISHED! A cry that rings throughout eternity! A cry heard even to the depths of hell, with what they thought was their victory, but how wrong they were!

They then put a sword through his side, to make sure that he was dead. It went up to the heart, and the Bible tells us that blood and water flowed! His heart. When they pierced his heart, to make sure that He

had died. It was if his heart had ruptured, his heart broken in for me and for you! John 3:16

The Effect It Has on You and Me

✓ **Our Search**

We are all looking for something to satisfy that longing in our soul that only Christ can completely satisfy. We try to fill it with everything in the world and yet nothing quenches that thirst.

✓ **Our Separation** Romans 3:23

We have to clearly understand and help others understand that our sin separates us from a holy God who hates sin and doesn't allow it in His presence.

✓ **Our Sentence** Romans 6:23

Because we are sinners – there is a sentence of death on our lives and there is no exception to this rule (Children & Special Needs)

✓ **Our Salvation** Romans 10:9-10

The amazing news – the greatest news we can ever hear – there is hope found in Jesus and we can be saved, born again, set free from our sin and death and find salvation in Jesus as our Savior and our Lord

✓ **Our Security** Romans 8:31-39; John 10:27-30, I John

Once there we are eternally secure in the arms of our Savior

✓ **Our Sanctification**

He doesn't leave us alone, but walks with us and molds and shapes us into the image of His Son, Jesus!