

Rolling Hills Community Church
“A Season of Thanks and Giving” Series
November 19, 2006

Giving Thanks for God’s Church
Expressing our Thanks to God for His Church

The apostle Paul was especially thankful for God’s church:

To the church in Philippi:

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:3-6

To the church in Colosse:

“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints.” Colossians 1:3-4

To the church in Thessalonica:

“We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.” 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

Paul was thankful for these characteristics about the Early Church:

- “Partnership in the Gospel”
- “Faith in the Christ Jesus”
- “Love you have for all the saints”
- “Work produced by faith”
- “Labor prompted by love”
- “Endurance inspired by hope”
- “Your faith is growing more and more”
- “the love every one of you has for each other is increasing”
- “Your perseverance”

Expressing our Thanks to God for His church:

What do you have to add to the tree of Thanksgiving today?

“God, I am thankful for every day with you.”

- - A leaf on our tree of Thanksgiving