

**The New Testament Church**  
***Mentoring More in 2024 – Session 6 – Gratefulness***  
**February 4, 2024**  
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I Learning begins in the heart of the Individual – and this is the heart of mentoring (discipleship)

- A. Teaching and Learning takes place in the home and church – coaching and admonishing
- B. How we receive Truth – Romans 12:2
  - 1. Maintain a humble heart - observation
  - 2. Receive the engrafted Word – meditation (rolling it around in our minds)
  - 3. Practice its truths (Romans 6) – obedience (putting it into action)
- C. So far this year...
  - 1. What it means to mentor – encouragement, teaching, coming alongside
  - 2. We are owned by God – accountability, spirit-soul-body given to Him every day
  - 3. We are to disciple – being a disciple means wherever we are, we make disciples
  - 4. Mentor by example a heart for the lost and simply sharing the gospel

II Gratefulness – *encouraging and admonishing one another to view life from God's perspective*

- A. We do not deserve anything because of sin – Ephesians 4:1
  - 1. We are not entitled to anything from God
  - 2. But as creator, He has made us who we are, and showered His love upon us
  - 3. Through Christ, He has initiated the means for our salvation!
  - 4. Today, we can encourage and admonish each other to be grateful to God in practical ways
- B. Ephesians 4:1-2
  - 1. *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called...*
    - a. We are prisoners of the Lord – in other words, saved by His grace, not our merit
    - b. We are not entitled, we are blessed; we are not deserving; we are given mercy
    - c. We are exhorted here to walk worthy of the calling we have been given
    - d. We are called to display the life and love of Christ, but in order to walk worthy of this – or to live out this calling, our perspective must change...
      - We can focus on all that we don't have, and all of our problems, or
      - We can focus on thanking God for His blessings and what we do have
      - Example: Matthew Henry, the great Puritan preacher and commentary, was once robbed of his belongings when living in London – *Let me be thankful, first, because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse, they did not take my life; third, because although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.*
  - 2. *With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing one another in love...*
    - a. Nancy Leigh DeMoss writes in *Choosing Gratitude*, a grateful person is a humble person, while ingratitude reveals a proud heart. ...That's because gratitude is a revealer of the heart, not just a reporter of details.
    - b. To bear one another in love means to that when we are to mentor, suggest, exhort or need to share with another, we do in love, with a humble and grateful attitude...
    - c. Example: The Leper colony of Tobago – DeMoss, pages 89-90 – Leave it to a grotesquely deformed leper to remind us that grateful people are characterized by grateful words, while ungrateful people are given to griping, complaining, murmuring and whining.
  - 3. As we ponder the words of the hymn *Count Your Blessing*, written in 1897 by Johnson Oatman, Jr. – who wrote 200 songs a year, eventually completing 5,000 “preach the gospel”