

Crossroads Baptist Church  
January 15, 2006 10:00  
Romans 1: 8-12  
Romans #4

## “Paul’s Prayer Life”

Paul had never ministered personally to the church at Rome, but he nevertheless had an effective ministry on their behalf. It was called the ministry of prayer.

The importance of prayer is seen:

\* by the early apostles in Acts 6:7 felt that the “ministry of prayer and the Word” was essential for them to remain with while other ministries of the early church was carried on by the deacons and others.

\* by Paul in I Thess 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”

Not everyone has the gift of helps, hospitality, or can preach or teach. But everyone can pray.

Look at the elements of Paul’s prayer list for the Romans:

### **I. Paul’s prayer list was first and foremost filled with thanksgiving.**

Phil. 4:7 “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplications, with thanksgiving, let your request be known to God.”

#### A. He was thankful for them.

When you express genuine thankfulness for others, then jealousy, resentment and bitterness goes.

#### B. He was thankful for their faith.

#### C. He was thankful for their visible, knowable faith.

Faith is invisible, it is an act of the heart. Yet, real faith produces works – fruit.

The Emperor Claudis expelled the Jews in A.D. 49, so they had been scattered throughout the Mediterranean. But they did not go complaining or with bitterness, but they were good examples of faith.

#### D. He was thankful to God.

His thanksgiving was ultimately directed toward God for as we saw in verse 5, everything we have comes from God through Jesus Christ.

We can’t boast about anything, we can only be thankful. Jesus Christ is the source of all our blessings.

### **II. Paul’s prayer list was from a clear conscience.**

He calls on God as a witness that he was really thankful for them and that he prayed for them. This was a device used frequently by Paul when he was especially concerned to affirm truthfulness of something. He wanted the Romans to know how much he had honestly prayed for them.

### **III. Paul’s prayer list had contained specific requests for him and others.**

#### A. He prayed for himself.

He prayed that he would be able to come and see them shortly. He wanted the Sovereign God to display His will for Him to come.

Yet while he makes this request, he does so in such a matter that he submits to the will of God even in the request.

#### B. He prayed for them.

##### 1. To be established.

He wanted them to be strengthened and made more firm.

##### 2. To be encouraged.

To be comforted, encouraged.

#### C. He prayed for mutual blessings.

He prayed to “be encouraged with you.”

What you pray for others will normally work for yourself.

He wanted both to be and to obtain a blessing, to give and to get.