



APPRECIATION

(A Muse With a Message)

Appreciate: To recognize the quality, significance, or magnitude of; to be thankful or show gratitude; to admire greatly; value.

—American Heritage Dictionary

One morning I went to the garage and climbed into my truck and attempted to start the engine. It didn't start. I became upset. I thought, "What's wrong with this vehicle? It always starts without any hesitation. Maybe it's time to get a new one!"

Later, while looking under the hood I noticed that the battery terminals had become corroded. Over time the problem had been building up unnoticed. I had come to expect the battery to always give me the starting power I needed, but now it was unable to transfer its power to the starter. It was my neglect that had caused the problem.

I began to reflect on life, and what we expect from others: how we depend on others to be there to help us in time of need; to provide moral and emotional support (maybe even financial support). I thought about the church: how members count on each other for assistance, support, and fellowship.

Members who are dependable are often given little attention and shown little appreciation—until they are unable to help. Often, our first reaction may be, "They let me down." But, could it possibly be that I didn't nourish the relationship? How true it is that we seldom appreciate what we have until it is taken away. We just expect it to be there.

Friendships need attention. Neglecting to nourish and appreciate them can cause a gradual deterioration. We need to show our appreciation (with words, not just thoughts, people are not mind-readers). They need to hear our grateful thanks. Such maintenance keeps friendships and associations running smoothly and endlessly. We must not wait until a problem arises and then become upset because something has spoiled a relationship.

Likewise in the church. There are members that are very dependable. They go about their work in an unheralded manner. If given a special task, they will complete it. Assigned to teach a class, they quietly give it their very best. They give liberally with a cheerful heart. They do it because they desire to do the right thing. They don't expect to receive praise or credit, but it warms their heart to know that others appreciate their efforts.

Don't wait another minute to warm the hearts of those on whom we depend. Show them that we place a high value on what they do. That's appreciation!

And don't neglect to thank God for all we have.

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Hebrews 13:15

But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

Live in peace with one another.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

F.

Y.

C.

**For Your
Consideration**

*"Let us consider
how to stimulate
one another to love
and good deeds."*

Hebrews 10:24

SEPTEMBER 2020



Ron Adams

"Be thoughtful and kind."

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(Quotations from NASB)

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Succinctly Put

**Bouquets for the living, not just flowers
for the dead.**



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CHRISTIAN

THE DISCIPLES WERE CALLED CHRISTIANS

And he [Barnabas] left for Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.
Acts 11:25-26

When one says "I'm a Christian," what does that signify? That he knows Jesus? Is he a disciple? Note: A disciple is not just a **pupil**, but is an **adherent**; hence he is spoken of as an **imitator** of Jesus.

A DISCIPLE IS A PUPIL

A person who is being educated by the Master.

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."
Matthew 11:29

A DISCIPLE IS AN ADHERENT

A supporter of Jesus and the gospel. One who holds fast to the Master's teaching.

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.
1 Corinthians 15:1-2

A DISCIPLE IS AN IMITATOR

One who uses Jesus as a model; seeking to appear like Him; resemble Him.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
Ephesians 5:1-2



A true Christian is disciple in the full sense of the word. Not just wearing the name. Not just belonging to a group of believers. It's obeying from the heart the form of teaching delivered. It's holding fast the Word of Truth. It's glorifying Christ in your body.

Be a true disciple who can confidently wear the name "Christian."

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine."

John 8:41

THURSDAY'S THOUGHT REVISITED

NEW THOUGHTS ABOUT A PREVIOUS THOUGHT

Gratitude

Luke 17:11-19

Ten leprous men asked Jesus for help, and He used his miraculous power to heal them. Only one turned back to thank Him. Nine had enough faith to be healed, but not enough gratitude to express thanks. Jesus didn't demand that they thanked Him, but it was justly due. Their actions demonstrated their ungratefulness. They had great appreciation for being healed, but none for their Healer.

What shows a lack of gratitude? When the response (in thought or in word) is: "It really wasn't that much." Or, "You only did what any Christian should do." Or, "You owed it to me." Or, "I deserved it." Or (the most flagrant of all), Silence!

What are some ways of showing gratitude? First and foremost, express it, don't just think it. (Others can't read your mind.) A sincere, kind word of appreciation. A card containing words of heart-felt gratitude (make it hand-written). A telephone call saying "Thank you! It meant a lot to me."

Expressions of gratitude benefits both the one helped and the helper.

What are some ways of showing gratitude to the Lord? There are many, here are a few: Cherish the Word of God – read it often, meditate on it frequently. Acknowledge Christ's sacrifice in weekly communion with other Christians. Show appreciation for His church by being an active member of a local congregation. Show gratitude for your salvation by sharing the Good News with others. Living for Jesus each and every day: Doing His will.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE LONG REMEMBERED

During my employment at a large family-owned newspaper company, the owner's daughter passed away. The daily newspaper had to be published the day of the funeral, and some employees would have to work and miss the funeral. I was one who stayed and worked that day.

The following morning a handwritten note was received that read, "Thanks for what you did for me. It meant a lot." (Signed)

What gratitude! I still remember it 65 years later.