

The Attitude of Gratitude

Nehemiah 9:1-38

INTRODUCTION:

1. "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful" (Col. 3:15).
2. It is not a matter of being polite. It is a persistent attitude of giving thanks.
3. Such an attitude of gratitude has power.

DISCUSSION: An attitude of gratitude releases...

I. Surviving power.

- A. Jerusalem was in ruins for one-hundred years.
- B. When the people responded to God's grace with gratitude, the nation continued to exist.
- C. The prayer of the Levites in Nehemiah 9:6-37 is a story of survival of a nation because of the grace of God.

II. Reviving power.

- A. Gratitude causes one to remember. Israel remembered all that God had done.
- B. "Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing..." (v. 38).
- C. The walls of the city arose from the rubble because "the hand of my God that had been upon me for good" (2:18). "So they strengthened their hands for the good work."

III. Striving power.

- A. This is the power to make bold decisions and move forward confidently in the face of tremendous odds.
- B. The wall was built, the Law was read, worship was restored (8:13-18), and confession was made.

IV. Arriving power.

- A. The wall was finished in fifty-two days (6:15).
- B. The people confessed their sins and entered into a binding agreement with God (9:38).
- C. Blessings were restored.
- D. Israel rejoiced (Neh. 12).

CONCLUSION:

1. Two qualities were developed:
 - a. Humility
 - b. Unselfishness
2. One cannot be a vain, egotistical, and selfish person if he maintains an attitude of gratitude.