Gratitude for Mercy ***November 9, 2026***

12 *I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service,* ***13*** *even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,* ***14*** *and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.* – 1 Timothy 12:12-14

We know it to be true, though sometimes we need that gentle reminder of the truth - Gratitude changes our attitude. When we begin with a grateful heart, we gain a more positive outlook on the world and on the tasks that we need to complete in it. When we begin with gratitude, we find the encouragement and the strength to take on the tasks that seem overwhelming and even find a way to say "yes" to those things we would rather not do.

Gratitude truly changes our attitude.

Paul's letter to a young Timothy speaks of this gratitude. We should tell from the verses above that Paul doesn't view himself from a position of importance. In fact, from verse 13, we might not believe he thinks himself worthy of the calling of Christ. However, his gratitude in verse 12 shows that he knows the strength to overcome his weakness is because of Christ in him. Christ considered him faithful, and Paul was grateful.

In much the same way, when we consider our opportunities to serve in the church, whether that be on a mission team, on a ministry team, in leadership, on a committee, sometimes we don't think we are capable or we don't feel it's a good fit. And sometimes, we just don't want to (I echo the later at times). Yet, even when we don't want to, we know that the Holy Spirit is tugging at us. Often if we just take a deep breath and focus on all that Christ has done for us, we can't help but to be grateful; and out of gratitude comes a willingness to serve because we know we are serving Christ.

I am grateful for all who serve in this church. You have served faithfully through many years. Thank you. I am grateful for those who serve now and for those who will join in service in the future. My great hope is that we might take this month that is often set for "thanksgiving," to be a time for us to express our gratitude for all that God has done for us, and renew our commitment to allow our thankful service to be in response to His goodness and mercy.

Grace & Peace,
Sam