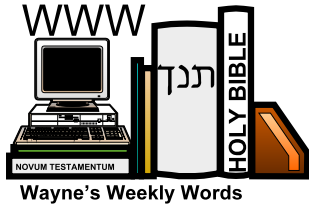


**THANKS!**

Thanks is a simple word - one syllable, only 6 letters. Strange that such a simple word is so hard to say! I got to thinking about this last week.

After Grandson Bill's graduation from high school in June, I was looking at his school's web site. Bill had gotten behind in his chemistry class which was necessary for graduation. His teacher took a special interest in him and tutored him enough to bring his grade up to a very respectable level. As I browsed the high school site, I came across her address so took a couple of minutes to send her e-mail telling how much Gail and I appreciated her helping Bill. Below is an excerpt from her response:

*Thank-you so much for the note. As I am sure you are aware, those simple little notes really help a lot.*

From the tone of her response, she was probably feeling pretty low and our note helped brighten her day. It was a simple thank-you note, took only a few minutes to write, but it meant a lot to her. I got to thinking about other times in my life when the Lord just put it into my mind (or heart) to write a thank-you note to someone with the result that it really made a difference to the recipient. The only problem, I am afraid, is that there have been a lot of other times that I was oblivious to. I think I am going to try to be more responsive to the Lord's leading in this.

Lately, I have made it a point to wish the person I've been dealing with "a good day." It is interesting the reaction of surprise you get from some. They are so used to hearing complaints and insults that wishing them a "good day" is a total surprise. Paul said it much better than I can. *But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*

Colossians 3:14-15

I suppose I am writing to the wrong audience. Many of you have thanked me for writing these words so, apparently, you already know the art of saying thanks.

**NO THANKS!!**

Now I am on the other side of the page. Now I am dealing with the lack of thanks. Being an amateur photographer, I have made many copies of old family photos and sent them to various relatives. I have always made a point of charging nothing because it is a hobby and I don't want it to become a business and spoil it for me.

But - some of the people for whom I have spent considerable time and no little expense making photos, have never even let me know they received them! Recently one of Gail's relatives called me and asked if I would send another relative a set of photos like I had sent her. I don't know the person but respected her request and filled it. I still don't know if he ever received them!

Would you say that this would be quite discouraging? Well, it could be. I won't send that person any more photos, but it really didn't bother me for long. Why not?

Again, Paul was better with words than I am. *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with goodwill **doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men**, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.*

Ephesians 6:5-8

If I have done something because I felt the Lord would have me do it, then there is no need for anyone to thank me other than the Lord, and He will surely do so. If you fail to get thanks for work you do, regardless of whom you do it for, you should be doing it *as to the Lord* and the Lord will reward you for it. That's all you really need (although it would be nice if people thanked you too - see the other column).

Thanks for reading this, have a good day!

Wayne



