

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a zebra crossing on a city street. The crossing consists of alternating black and white horizontal stripes. Several pedestrians are captured in motion, walking across the stripes. Their shadows are cast long and dark on the pavement, indicating bright, direct sunlight. The people are dressed in casual attire, including t-shirts, shorts, and dresses. One person is holding a black umbrella, and another is holding a blue patterned umbrella. The overall scene is busy and urban.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“What the Church Should Be
(Part 1)”**

I THESSALONIANS 1:2

KEY POINT:
A godly church is elect,
exemplary, enthusiastic,
and expectant.

- Silvanus - a derivative of the name Silas; accompanied Paul on this 2nd Missionary Journey; a reliable and trustworthy co-laborer, met Paul in Jerusalem at the Jerusalem Council; called a prophet in Acts 15:32

Silvanus and Timothy

- Silvanus
- Timothy - a disciple of Paul; met Paul probably as a teenager between the ages of 14-17; sent by Paul to the Thessalonian church to instruct them in the faith; known for his sacrificial service and genuine concern for others, who could encourage and establish others in the faith (Phil. 2:19-23)

Silvanus and Timothy

**What Did Paul Think of the Thessalonian
Church? (vs. 2)**

- Reestablished the relationship between author and readers

Paul's Thanksgiving...

- Reestablished the relationship between author and readers
- Challenged the readers to live up to what they are being thanked for

Paul's Thanksgiving...

*For we never came with words of flattery,
as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—
God is witness.*

I Thessalonians 2:5

*I give thanks to my God always for you because
of the grace of God that was given you in
Christ Jesus,*

I Corinthians 1:4

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

Romans 1:8

- The salvation of others (Romans 6:17; II Thessalonians 2:13)
- His own salvation (Romans 7:25)
- How others served him physically and spiritually (Romans 16:4; II Corinthians 9:15; Colossians 1:12)
- The opportunity to practice the ordinances – baptism (I Corinthians 1:14) and the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 10:30)

Examples of Paul's Gratitude

- The opportunity to use his spiritual gifts to edify others (I Corinthians 14:18)
- The hope of overcoming personal sin (I Corinthians 15:57; I Timothy 1:12)
- The privilege of growing in his knowledge of the Lord (II Corinthians 2:14)
- The spiritual growth he sees in others (II Corinthians 8:16; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Thessalonians 2:13; Philemon 4)

Examples of Paul's Gratitude

- The unity that exists in the church (Colossians 3:15)
- Governing authorities (I Timothy 2:1)
- The privilege of being a servant of God (II Timothy 1:3)
- Everything (Ephesians 5:20; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 3:17; I Thessalonians 5:18; I Timothy 4:4)

Examples of Paul's Gratitude

*And we also thank God constantly for this,
that when you received the word of God,
which you heard from us, you accepted it not as
the word of men but as what it really is,
the word of God, which is at work in
you believers.*

I Thessalonians 2:13

For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God,

I Thessalonians 3:9

1. Make lists of people to give thanks for.

How to Cultivate Gratitude

1. Make lists of people to give thanks for.
2. Downplay your own talents and abilities and elevate others.

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3. Rehearse what God has done.

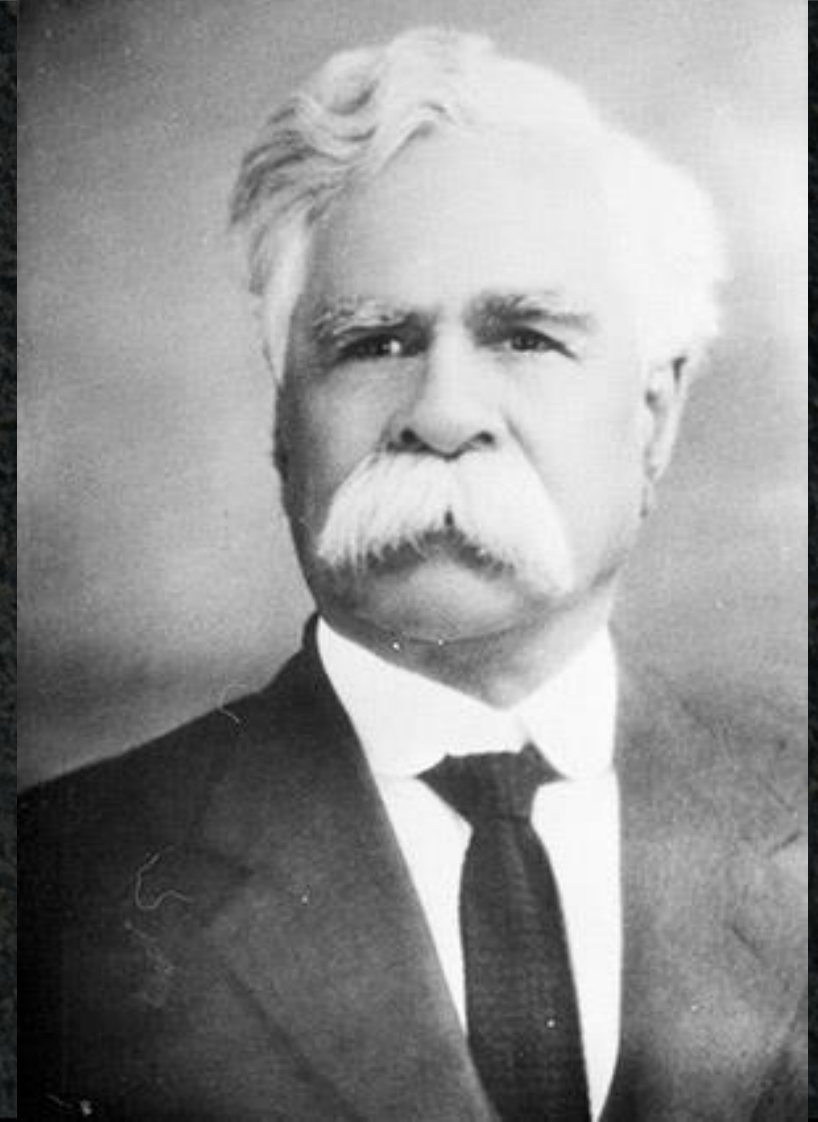
How to Cultivate Gratitude

1. Make lists of people to give thanks for.
2. Downplay your own talents and abilities and elevate others.
3. Rehearse what God has done.
4. Pray.

How to Cultivate Gratitude

“Our continual praying shows that we are always beggars, and our continual thanksgiving shows us always debtors.

Our thanks, then, indeed, is the rebound of mercy heavenward, whence it came, and a holy reflection of the warm sun-beams of God’s benefits shining on us.”



**William Cooper,
*How We Must In All
Things Give Thanks***