

Pentecost Thankfulness Means Ministry Thankfulness

- Today celebrat festival/Pent, that very spl day, 10 days after J ascndd into hvn, that J poured out HS on Ch. J promsd would; in Gos: **Jn 14:26**. So on Pent, HS filled discs w/pwr preach Gos. And thru that Gos, faith/J just explodd; thousnds/ppl fr all over wrld came faith/J – which is real signfnc/Pent: not fire/langgs, but faith-building wrk of HS. Today, we may not have flames/langgs. But same HS, who was pwrflly at work on day/Pent, still pwrfully at work among us, changing hrts, working faith/J thru preachng Gos, so that ppl all over wrld might know/bel in J as Sav, crucfd/risen for them.
- And that's smthng thnkfl for! Today I'd call: Pent Thnkflns. We're thnkfl for fact: God HS constntly at wrk, snatchng ppl from road to hell, showing light/Xp. Ap Paul: thnkfl for that. Saw it hap among Theslns. **Vs. 13**. So: Paul's thnkfl for faith that HS wrkd in these Thesln bels. Says bascly same at very beg/letter: **"We ought always to thank God for you, bro/sis, and rightly so, bec your faith is growing more/more" (1:3)**. Again, Paul's thnkfl for their faith. That's Pent thnkflns. Mentioned **"snctfyng wrk/Sp."** Snctfctn is when HS sets you apart, makes you seprate/spcl/distnt from rest of unbelvng wrld. There's lot ppl out there on road to hell. But when HS pulls you out that drkns & brings you into Ch, when coverts your hrt & causes you belv truth – that's you being **saved vs. 13b**. HS did that for you, & for whole lot other ppl! That's smthng be thnkfl for.
- Ever met/talked w/anyone came faith/J later in life? Or are you? I: baptzd baby; Xian whole life; many you. But if you ever talk sbdy who remems being unbel, living w/o faith/Xp, they'll tell you: biggest change/life; huge; so thnkful! Finally, whether we came faith/J as adult or child, we should all be thnkfl for **"snctfyng wrk/Sp"** in our lives. Paul: **vs. 14a** – not Paul's in sense he came up w/it, but that he/Aps are ones who shared/proclmd good news re J. So **vs. 14**. Not just Thslns, but you too. Gos/Xp: changd you, brought you to faith. You: recipnts of snctfng wrk/Sp thru spread/Gos – which means you too **share vs. 14b**. Means you have: peace/frgvns (know J paid for all sins, death/cross); joy/salvtn (know: J rose from dead & rescued you from hell; you have home w/him in hvn); every good/perf gift from hvnly Fr, bec you're his child. Yeah, that's life changing; huge; smthng be thnkfl for! **Vs. 13**. That's Pent thnkflns. We're thnkfl for the faith the HS's worked in us & others.
- But now take 1 step furthr: PTmMT. Here's why: who does wrk/snctfyng? HS. What use? Gos. But whom he send to share Gos? Ministers, calld wrkrs. Certainly any Xian can share Gos; and God'll use their words, of course. But HS also calls certain indvdl into pub min to share Gos on behalf of others. And thru their min, HS changes hrts/lives. That's huge! So if we're thnkfl for snctfyng wrk/Sp (which see on day/Pent & ev day among us), then we're also thnkful for min/Gos & mnstrs/Gos, who share Gos w/us & wrld. That's what I mean when say: PTmMT.
- Today we say TU to 3 mins/Gos who'll soon leaving us here at SJ. PDW: prof Gk at MLC; tchnng young men studyng pstrl min to read NT in orgnl lng. Principal CA: Xp Our Redmr, Aurora, CO; princpl & uppr gr tchr in their LES. Ms. SS's become enggd be marrd to Pr. Aaron Goetzing of Attleboro, MA, where they'll soon beg marrd lives tog. All 3 these calld wrkrs plan make transtn this summer, in coming wks. So today, in this min recogntn service, as celebrt fest/Pent, we bid farewell & Godspeed to these minstrs/Gos, and thank them for their service.
- TU, SS, for tchnng 2nd gr here at SJ past 9 yrs. Came summer 2012; means 1st class hlfwy thru HS. TU for tchnng these precious little chldrn; TU teaching 2 my own chldrn. TU for directng var yth choirs & for being musical leadr in our schl. TU for accompyng worshp/choirs here at SJ & for using musical gifts on organ, piano, flute to glorify Lord. Most of all: TU for sharing J w/studnts so faithfully.
- TU, Princpl Avery, for your service here at SJ as schl princpl & for tchnng upper gr classes for past 4 yrs. Came summer 2017; means 1st 8th gr class is about grad HS. TU for tchnng/guidng these young stdnts at such important age. TU for bringng stblty to our princplshp after what had been an extndd vacancy. TU for directng our schl thru diffclt times these past 4 yrs, inclndg this pandmc. Most of all: TU for sharing J w/studnts so faithfully.
- And TU, PW, for your service as our cong's pr for past 9 yrs. You came summer 2012, as grad from WLS. We've watched your fam grow from fam/2 to 6. In sermons you've prchd, classes taught, mtgs,

& casual convrstns: you've shared love/Xp with humble servant's hrt. Thru your study/Bible, you've shared wisdom from Word. You've baptized babies, confirmed youth, communed countless Xians, recalled straying, encouraged hurting, celebrated w/rejoicing, married/buried – for all this we TU. Most of all: TU for prchnng/tchnng GW & sharng J w/cong so faithfully.

- PTmMT. 2 go hand/hand. We thank God for working faith in us thru Gos; and thnk God for the calld wrkrs who share w/us the Gos. And prbly best way we can truly thank God for all this grace: take to hrt, & put into practc, these words St. Paul: **vs. 15**. Paul learned Gos from J & passed on those tchngs to Thslns. PDW, Pr A, & SS leaned Gos from minstrs who shared it w/them, and here at SJ all 3 them've passed on tchngs/Gos to us & our children. Studnts/SJ: remem what Ms. S & Mr. A taught you. Membrs/SJ: remem what PW prchd to you. **“Stand...[they]...to you”** – bec **“tchngs they've passd on to you”** are truths/Gos/Xp: his holy life, death on cross, res from dead, pledge forgvnss, promise of etnl life. The way say TU to J: stand firm & hold fast to tchngs you've learned here.
- My dear sis/bro in Xp, whether dprtnng or staying: **vs. 16-17**. PTmMT. TU, Ms. S, Prnpl A, PDW, for sharing Gos w/us. And TU, HS, for using their msg to encourage our hrts & strngthn our faith.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

¹³ But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

John 14:26

²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

