

Give Thanks

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

This week I was challenged to remember how someone has made a difference in my life. When I first was given this assignment, I thought that this would be an easy task, but the moment you start thinking about all the different occasions someone might have done this for you, memories start flooding through your mind making this a very difficult task. God has blessed us so greatly!

With this being the case, I am choosing to speak of the most recent way that someone has made a difference in my life. We must remember to thank God in all things. I have been thinking about this a lot this week, and especially while I write this article. What I am about to share with you talks of an example of how friends help one another. This week I finally decided to work on getting snow off my roof. I was doing this alone as I just finished doing this at the church last weekend and I knew that anyone that I would ask for help would already be worn out from doing both their own homes as well as helping me at the church just days ago.

Since my family moved here from Ohio just over a year ago, I have yet to acquire a ladder and after trying to conquer this task for about 30 minutes, I realized that this would be much simpler and faster if I had one. I continued to try to do this on my own, without the help of friends, people who have told me they could help, and without the proper tools. After a bit longer I decided to call a good friend, Bob Wundrow, for a ladder. Before I go on, I'd like to just make a quick observation.

Sometimes what makes the most difference in someone's life isn't the simple act of kindness, but how someone goes above and beyond. This friend of mine could have easily done the quick and kind deed and dropped off the ladder, but he went beyond this. Bob ended up staying for nearly 2 hours, helping me, and would not leave my side until the entire project was completed including clean up. I am sure



this friend had better things to do. He had already been working hard doing this sort of thing at work all day, at his own house, and at the church the weekend before, but he still helped me.

In Philippians 2:4 we read, *"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."* My challenge to you with writing this is twofold. First, what can you do today, this week, this month to look out not just for yourself, but for the interest of others? What can you do to go above and beyond and make a difference? Secondly, remember a time someone has done something for you. Start here and allow it to inspire you.

In closing, I'd like to remind you of one final thing. Maybe you struggle to remember a case of someone making a difference for you. If this is the case, look to God and His Son Jesus. Look to how much God loves you. Look to your Lord and Savior and appreciate what He does for you not just in that past moment of redemption, but with each day of your life. God is Good!

Psalms 136:1:

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

Pastor Patrick Rhodes

Bloomer Baptist Church, Bloomer, WI