

‘Let Us Choose to be Thankful’ 1 Cor. 15:58

Introduction: My aim is to help each of us to more joyfully and thankfully carry out, 1 Cor. 15:58. Heb. 6:12 Here is a brief look at one man who is worthy of imitation, the man Charles Simeon.

I. The times in which he lived.

He lived from 1759 to 1835, in England. These were the days of John and Charles Wesley and of George Whitefield and his _____ in America. Charles knew these men well.

II. Some of the hardships he faced.

A. He was his own greatest hardship, as many of us would say of ourselves too.

B. A second hardship was that at age 22, he was installed as the head pastor at Trinity church in Cambridge, which was completely against the will of the congregation.

Even after 30 years of service there, he said the opposition to him was still so fierce he often wondered just what should he do? He ended up staying there for 54 years until he died at age 76. Eventually, he became one of the most respected and revered men in England. He led many, many to Christ, had a huge influence on missions and is credited as one of the men who kept Christianity alive in England.

III. Biblical characteristics that enabled him to be thankful.

1. Have a strong sense of the need to be faithful to your calling. Charles felt keenly people’s immortality and their future. May we nor any Christian nor any parent, be asleep at their charge.

2. Stay away from a scolding tongue. One biographer of Charles Simeon wrote that *‘he was totally free of the often seen but fatal mistake of having a scolding tongue.’* If one is a _____, that person is not a thankful person. People need encouragement, not a tongue-lashing.

3. Pay no attention to rumors. Spurgeon once said that when someone wanted to tell him a rumor, he turned his deaf ear to him. Our society today is over-run with rumors. Do your own research. Don’t be a rumor tracker, thus you too can dwell in peace and thankfulness even in the midst of lions!

4. Learn to take criticism and grow from it. Vance Havner, a famous old country preacher once said: *‘a Christian needs to have the heart of a child and the hide of a rhinoceros.’!*

5. Remember the wholesome benefits of physical training. 1 Tim. 4:8 Simeon encouraged his men to take at least a 3-6 mile walk every day. He said it will do wonders for your body and your attitude.

6. Be known for your financial integrity. Simeon had no love of _____. He was thankful for what he had and he didn’t need much.

7. He tried to take the hopeful approach. As the Bible tells us, faith and patience are always needed. So, he tried to look at discouraging things, hopefully, positively. A thankful person will take the high road and the positive approach.

8. Suffering can be seen as a privilege. Phil. 3:10 Late in his life Simeon said: *‘we must not mind a little suffering for Christ’s sake.’* Don’t let suffering throw you off but learn to be thankful *in* all things.

9. This is probably the most important one, for this one is the foundation which makes all those earlier traits possible, and that is: he saw the need for and thus he spent huge amounts of time in prayer and meditation, studying, and pondering the Word of God.

I hope that each of us, in these busy, stress-filled, often fast-paced Christmas season days, that each of us would not let ourselves become bitter but choose to be thankful and joyful, so we can more joyfully obey 1 Cor. 15:58.