



Heartbeats along the way: The Christ-ruled, Thankful Heart

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body, And be thankful." ~ Colossians 3:14-15

Recently I wrote that the purpose of the Heartbeats letters was twofold: building a facility to be a base of operations for our calling as a church in this community and in the world; and a disciple-building program that prepares us for the new things God has for us.

St. Paul always gave sound guidance for the churches he started. Using his writings as a sort of parallel, let's take the time we have from now till we walk in the doors of the Spring Garden Campus, to think of our personal preparations in building-related terms.

Let's examine and refurbish our spiritual foundations. Take account of those internal fixtures that could be replaced. Replace some of our "me" time with service to others time. Polish up our memorizing parts of the Bible.

It's time to invest in our own very personal Capital Campaign, converting the most precious commodities we possess - our time and our motivating self-interest - to become more deeply committed and skilled in serving, caring for, and encouraging our sisters and brothers in faith. That way we can be better equipped as Committed and Serving Christians for the great works that will pour forth from God's gift of this new worship and serving space we're building at the Spring Garden Campus.

Let's pledge to make our lives match the beauty and newness of our new building, so that the peace of Christ will always rule in our hearts - something for which we may forever be thankful.

"O Lord help us prepare our hearts for this new thing You are doing for and through us. For the sake of Jesus, our Lord, Amen."

~ cl reynolds

Paul's Guidance to Churches (informal)

If you are interested in what Paul wrote regarding living as a member of a Christian community, I offer a brief list of passages from Paul's writings to churches and individual persons.

· Romans All of chapters 12-14; 1 Corinthians. All of chapter 12; 2 Corinthians. Chapter 2:5-7; Galatians. 6:1-10; Ephesians. 3:14-19; all of chapter 4; 5:15-20; 6:10-18; Philippians. 2:1-18; 3:12-21; 4:4-9; Colossians: 3:1-17; Thessalonians. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12; 5:5-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Timothy 1 Timothy 6:11-19; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Titus. 2:1-10; 3:1-2, 8-11