

# From the Family Room

**Creekwood Church of Christ  
Mobile, AL**

29 July, 2018

## **ENTHUSIASM!**

*"I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent."* Revelation 3: 15, 16, 19

His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR YOUR HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME." John 2:17

*Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart* I Peter 1:22

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalms 122:1

*And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."* Matthew 22:37

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Galatians 2:20

*For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.* Ephesians 3:14-19

**Enthusiasm - great eagerness to be involved in an activity that you like and think is important.**

Freda and I gained many memories in Greece recently. As I think back on our work there, one thing that sticks out was the genuine enthusiasm in the church there on the part of both the Christians from Athens and those from other countries who had sought refuge in Athens. They had enthusiasm to assemble together and sing praises to God. There was enthusiasm for God's word. There was a fervent desire for fellowship with other Christians. There was zeal to serve one another. Fervent prayers were presented to God. Love for God was evident everywhere. It was encouraging and inspiring. Enthusiasm is contagious.

At the Mediterranean Christian Conference, I was asked to come up and tell the audience what my thoughts were of the conference. I told the group that I was most impressed with the enthusiasm of the preaching, the singing, and the fellowship of people from nine different countries. The common love we had for God overcame the diversity of cultures and language barriers.

Dino Roussos is the minister at Glyfada Church of Christ and was the primary organizer of the conference. He was born and grew up in Athens. He knows Greek. Dino taught us the meaning of the Greek word translated into English as "enthusiasm." "Entheos" is the Greek root word and means "God in us." It was often used by the Greeks in ancient times in a derogatory manner referring to religious zealots.

We see and have seen enthusiasm for God here at Creekwood. That enthusiasm is seen in our worship, in volunteers feeding the elderly and those in need in Meals On Wheels and in delivering food boxes, people teaching God's word, Lads to Leaders, work with Vacation Bible School, work at Gulf Coast Bible Camp, visiting the sick and shut-ins, competition at Family Game Night, and in too many different ways to list here.

In this state we know what enthusiasm means. We know football. There is a great eagerness for football. Most people think this game is really important. Many of us devote a lot of time and a lot of money to our favorite team because we are enthusiastic about their football. May our enthusiasm for the Lord and His church be stronger than our enthusiasm for our favorite college team.

May our genuine enthusiasm for God grow stronger and endure all of our lives because of God within us. May Christ dwell in our hearts us through faith.

**RICKY**