“Pursuing Relationships That Matter” (Part 2)

**Q = How grateful are you for your relationship with Jesus?**

1. **God Cursed the Serpent—But Jesus Christ fatally Bruised Him—Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)**

 “And I will put enmity [Hostility] Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

1. **God cursed the serpent [Satan]**
2. **In the midst of the curse, there was a message of hope.**
3. The woman’s offspring is Christ Jesus, Satan is defeated
4. But Christ bruised Satan’s heel by destroying Satan with a fatal blow.
5. Paul declared in Romans 16:20(a) “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

 **Hebrews 2: NLT**

 14 Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death.

 15 Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

**Revelation 20:10 (Common English Bible)**

 “Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet also were. Their painful suffering will be inflicted upon them day and night, forever and always.”

**Q = If we can be grateful for our relationship with Jesus Christ, why can’t we be Thankful for our healthy relationships?**

1. Paul gave thanks for the Philippians.

**Philippians 1:3-4 (NLT)**

 3 “Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.

 4 Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy,

1. We can have this same attitude of gratefulness Paul had if we:
2. **Use Selective Memory.**
3. Selective memory is a choice

 b. Sometimes it’s tough to be thankful

1. **Make Gratitude A Habit**

1. “You shape your habits, and your habits will shape you.”
2. Jesus was the perfect example

**Luke 5:15-16 (Christian Standard Bible)**

 15 But the news about him spread even more, and large crowds would come together to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.

 16 Yet he often withdrew to deserted places and prayed.

1. **Don’t Let Others Control Our Attitude**

**Philippians 1:18 (NLT)** says…

 But that doesn’t matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.

 **Philippians 1:28 (NLT)**

  Don’t be intimidated in any way by your enemies.

 **Hebrews 12:2-3**

 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.

 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won’t become weary and give up.