

# OVERDUE GRATITUDE

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## **Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3**

*We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

It is entirely appropriate that we should take the time to honor our public school teachers who give themselves to the instruction and molding of our children's minds, and in many cases, their character.

Paul gives us the proper perspective on the way we should view good public servants in Romans 13:1-2 when he writes, "Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God." NIV

He continues in verses 6 and 7, "This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor." NIV

Writing to the church at Thessalonica, Paul gives us a brief summary of the *characteristics* and the *actions* we can appreciate in all who are faithful servants—whether for Christ or others.

### **I. WE CAN APPRECIATE WORK PRODUCED BY FAITH (v.3a).**

**A. A deeply held conviction that they can make a difference keeps them going.**

**B. A belief in what a child (or others) can be is their heart.**

### **II. WE CAN APPRECIATE LABOR PERFORMED OUT OF LOVE (v.3b).**

**A. Devotion to a calling springs from a love of the calling.**

**B. True loyalty to mission of investing in others can only be prompted by love.**

**III. WE CAN APPRECIATE FAITHFUL ENDURANCE  
INSPIRED BY HOPE (v.3c).**

**A. The hope of what can be ultimately makes the needed patience worthwhile.**

**B. There are few things as powerful as simply being there when others have forsaken the task.**

**Conclusion**