

## 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

### Being Happy for Someone Else

"But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building." -1 Corinthians 3:1-9 ESV

#### 1. Greeting 1,2

A. From Paul's Team

"but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord." -Acts 15:40 ESV

B. To the Assembly

C. Meeting for Whom (what)

D. Jesus Reigns!

#### 2. A Reason for Thanks 3

A. Human Response

B. Give Thanks

"giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," -Ephesians 5:20 ESV

"give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." -1 Thessalonians 5:18 ESV

C. The Reasons

#### -It is Right

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." -1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 ESV

#### -Faith is Growing Abundantly.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." -Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV

"For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything."

1 Thessalonians 1:8 ESV

"and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your **faith**, that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your **faith**, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain. But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your **faith** and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your **faith**. For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your **faith**?"

1 Thessalonians 3:2-10 ESV

#### -Love is Increasing.

"and may the Lord make you increase and abound in **love** for one another and for all, as we do for you," -1 Thessalonians 3:12 ESV

"But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and **love**, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11 ESV

### 3. From Thanks to Boasting 4

#### A. Telling the Other Churches

"For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything."

1 Thessalonians 1:8 ESV

#### B. Steadfastness and Faith

"For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain." -1 Thessalonians 3:5 ESV

"who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

1 Peter 1:5-9 ESV

#### C. Endurance as Proof

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?" Romans 8:35 ESV

"Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord."

Acts 11:19-21 ESV

#### Reflection:

1. *Who have you been happy for recently? As you consider Paul's written reaction to the Thessalonians what is your response when you hear of Christians faithfulness in the face of persecution?*
2. *What work in your heart needs to take place in order for thanksgiving to be a reaction for others victories especially in serving Jesus?*

#### ***Follow UP in the Word through the Week...***

**Monday:** Ephesians 5:20. Who is the object of our thanksgiving? Why is it important to keep this in mind when considering the attitude we need to be thankful?

**Tuesday:** 1 Thessalonians 5:18. When are we to give thanks? Why are we to give thanks?

**Wednesday:** Ephesians 2:8-9. What is the role of faith in these verses? What is the result of faith?

**Thursday:** 1 Thessalonians 3:2-10. How many times is faith mentioned here? What is Paul's concern with the faith of the Thessalonians? As you look at these verses, how is your faith? Where are the dangers to faith today?

**Friday:** 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13. What is the encouragement about love in these verses? What is the role of love in the Christian's life?

**Saturday:** 1 Peter 1:5-9. In this definition of faithfulness to Jesus Christ, what were the elements you can identify? How are each of these working in your life?