

Work of Faith, Labor of Love, Steadfastness of Hope - 5/3/26  
I Thessalonians 1:1-3

I. Background to I Thessalonians

- Paul's first letter, written about AD 50-51
- Earliest New Testament book
- Written to address specific problems in the Thessalonian Christians were dealing with
- It's the first time Paul emphasizes the importance of the three virtues of faith, hope, and love
- The city was strategically located connecting the West with the East

II. Problems Paul Addressed

- Encouragement to endure persecution
- Reassurance regarding Jesus's second coming
- Admonition regarding immoral behaviors
- Reminder to treat others properly, work and not be lazy, do not be a busy body
- Encouragement to exhibit faith, hope, and love

III. Paul's Formula for Living the Christian Life

- Always rejoice
- Pray
- Give thanks

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

I Thessalonians 1:1-3 - Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.<sup>2</sup> We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly<sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 17:4 - Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 - But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

I Thessalonians 5:12-24 - But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you; <sup>13</sup>esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. <sup>14</sup>And we urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. <sup>15</sup>See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil. <sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.