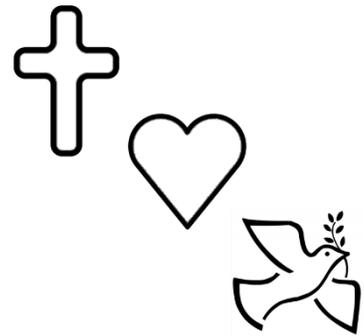


September 27, 2020
Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
Pastor Marvin Singh
1 & 2 Thessalonians, Lesson 1
Faith, Love, Hope



This is the first lesson in Pastor’s new series of meditations based on the books of First and Second Thessalonians.

The Letters to the Thessalonians were written by Paul to confirm the truths he had taught while he was with them and to dispel any false teachings that had spread among them. He commended them for their faith, encouraged them to press on in faith and love, and showed why they could always have hope in Christ.

Faith, Love, Hope

1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.

²We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.

³We 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.

⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you . . .”

Letters From “Paul, Silas and Timothy”: Who are they?

Paul:

Paul, an apostle, and his co-workers, who established the church and were together in Corinth when they wrote this letter. Paul (the Greek name of Paulos is a transliteration of the Latin Paulus) is the Roman name of Saul (Acts 13:9). As a Roman citizen, Paul would have at least three names: forename, family name and additional name.

He went there to the city of Thessalonica on his second missionary journey. He taught there for about three weeks, but then had to leave because the Jews were opposing him so strongly. Paul wrote this letter to encourage the church because they were suffering because of their faith. He also thanking God on their behalf and assuring them of his prayer for them.

Silvanus (Silas):

This is the surname of this Roman citizen (Acts 16:37). This is the Latinized form of the Semitic Silvani; Silas is his other Greek name, which itself is a transliteration of the Aramaic for the name “Saul.” He was a leader at the Jerusalem church and had a prophetic ministry (Acts 15:22, 32). The Jerusalem Council appointed him with Judas to accompany Paul and Barnabas when they delivered the decision of the body to the church at Antioch (Acts 15:22, 27, 32). When Paul and Barnabas separated, Silas was taken to become Paul’s co-worker during second missionary journey. He was then left at Corinth when Paul and Timothy went to do evangelistic ministry (Acts 18:5; 2 Corinthians 1:19). 1 Peter 5:12 indicates that he eventually arrived at Rome, where he became Paul’s secretary (Acts 17:4) He was one of the founders of the church at Thessalonica.

Timothy:

He was a native of Lystra in Galatia; his mother was Jewish and his father Greek (Acts 16:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:10-11). He was converted during Paul and Barnabas’ First Missionary Journey. He had a good reputation

and inherited a godly legacy of faith through his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice (Acts 16:1; 2 Timothy 1:5). He was Paul's spiritual son (1 Cor. 4:17; Phil 2:19, 22; 1 Cor, 4:17; 1 Thess. 3:2, 6). Paul sent him to encourage the young church (Acts 19:22). He was the pastor of the Ephesian church (1 Tim 1:3; 2 Tim. 1:18). Timothy joined Paul and Silas in going to Thessalonica (Acts 16:1-10; 17:14-15).

Gene L Green, *The Letters To the Thessalonians*. pg. 89-91

Paul took people and mentored them, encouraged them and led them, through his personal life. As a Christian how do you live and mentor young Christians and encourage them in their faith and ministry?

Another lesson we learn is that Paul followed the pattern initiated by his Lord, to go two by two or in a group to evangelize and do missionary activities.

Today, when we try to do ministry alone, we get frustrated and distressed. God gave Adam a life partner or mission partner in Eve. When we do it alone, we may fall into temptation and ruin the ministry. How many servants of the Lord have tried to do it alone, and the end result was failure, fatigue and sometimes disaster?

These letters are written "To The Church at Thessalonica."

Written from Corinth about 54 AD, 1 Thessalonians was the first Epistle written by Paul.

Theme: To confirm young disciples in fundamental truths already taught them; to exhort them to continue in holiness, and give comfort concerning those who had already died in the faith. All doctrines were taught them in the period of one month. Acts 1:1-9. Converts were mainly Gentiles who became outstanding as examples of demonstrating God's power by Paul to all who believe. 1:8; 2:13-14; 3:6; 2 Thess. 1:3-11; 2:17. The coming of the Lord is a very prominent subject in all chapters. 1:10; 2:12, 19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-11. *Dake Annotated Reference Bible*

The letter begins: “Grace and Peace to you,” the usual Christian greeting by Paul.

Paul is thanking the young church at Thessalonica and commending them for living in faith in spite of their suffering and becoming examples to imitate.

He is remembering them for their extraordinary life.

A. Work produced by faith

The object of faith is God (1 Thess. 1:8). Work is an active expression of faith (Eph. 2:8-9). Faith also has its fruits in good works (Eph. 2:10), every work of faith. Faith that works through love (Gal. 5:6).

What are “good works?”

They are: charity to the poor, visitation of the sick, hospitality to strangers, comfort to the downtrodden, and other helpful activities that benefit those who are poor and afflicted.

B. Prompted by love

The leadership of the church was commended for their love and asked to increase in love (1 Thess. 5:13; 2 Thess. 1:3). They also showed love to Christians in their location such at Philippi and Berea (4:9-10). The benefits of love were also to be extended to the unconverted. Love is to increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else (3:12).

Love is taught by God (4:9) who demonstrated his love toward them (1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13, 16). Paul also did the manual labor prompted by love (1 Cor. 3:8; 15:58; 2 Cor. 6:5; 11:23, 27; 2 Thess. 3:5).

C. Endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ

Endurance is the ability to remain steadfast and persevere in the face of suffering or temptation (Luke 21:19; Rom. 5:3-5; 2 Cor. 1:6; 6:4; Col. 1:11; 2 Thess. 1:4; 1 Tim. 6:11; Titus 2:2; Heb.12:1; James 1:3-4; Rev. 2:2-3).

It is the virtue of the martyrs. It is the most valued virtue in the midst of adversity.

Paul is commending them for the persecution they endure, the temptation of Satan to abandon the faith (3:1-5; 2:14; compare 2 Tim 2:11-12).

The source of perseverance was not some inner resolve or personal strength but their hope in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:3-4; 8:25; 15:4)

Hope was bound up with the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (1:5-8, 10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:8, 23; 2 Thess. 1:7-10).

How do we live, especially when the nation is divided, the church is divided, the news channels only proclaim doom, death and grief have overwhelmed people, the economy is resulting in suicide and depression, and we see the breaking of homes and relationships?

2 Chronicles 7:14

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

“If my people, who are called by name” – Christians,

“Will Humble themselves” – instead of judging, we should become children of light and hope

“And Pray” – can we pray together instead of putting up Facebook messages of condemnation, shame and accusation? Will you instead put up words of prayer? Because God is requiring it.

“And Seek” – whose face are we seeking? He says, “My Face.” Let us face God . . . can we?

Psalm 24:3-4

“Who may ascend the hill of the Lord ?

Who may stand in his holy place?

⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to an idol
or swear by what is false.”

Matthew 5:8

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

“And Turn from their wicked ways” – broad is the way which leads to death and destruction, but narrow is the way which leads to life (Matt. 7:13).

Turn means to return to God; Repent and turn around to Him.

“Then” the Lord has assured us He will:

HEAR

HEAL

FORGIVE

Can people thank God for Willerup Church for their works produced by faith, prompted by love and our endurance by the hope in our Lord Jesus Christ?

References used in preparing the sermon:

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