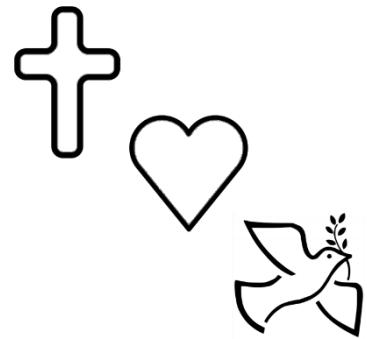


February 7, 2020
Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
Pastor Marvin Singh
1 & 2 Thessalonians, Lesson 10
Growing Faith



This series of meditations is 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.

2 Thessalonians Chapter 1

Paul, Silas and Timothy,

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

²Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. ⁴Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

⁵All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. ⁶God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire

with his powerful angels. ⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power ¹⁰on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

¹¹With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.

¹²We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Growing Faith

Vs. 1-2 Greetings

Grace from Father God,
Peace from Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Vs. 3-4 Always

We always ought to pray, we are obliged to thank God.

The Lord himself taught us - ‘Our Father’ who is in heaven (Lord’s Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13).

Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3; Galatians 1:3-4; Ephesians 1:2;
Philippians 1:2, 4:20; Colossians 1:2; 1 Thessalonian 1:2, 3:1, 13; 2
Thessalonians 1:2, 2:16; Philemon 3:1

A common liturgy used in Holy Communion service states that it is “Our bounden duty” to “give thanks.” (pg 28, *United Methodist Hymnal*)

Paul is giving thanks to God for the Thessalonians and their:

1. Growing Faith

The Greek word used for faith is PISTEUO – to be persuaded. Romans 4:17-22; 8:38-39; 2 Timothy 1:12

Faith is a place of confidence.

It is the substance or conviction of things hoped for, the assurance of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1, 6; 10:19-38; Romans 4:17; 8:24

a. Hearing – Faith comes by hearing

Hearing what? The Word of God.

The key word is “LISTEN” – paying attention, concentrating, inclining our ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Tuning our ears to be sensitive to the nudging of the Holy Spirit when we read or hear the Word of God.

b. Planting – of the good seed in good soil

(i). The tilling of the ground – softening the hardened heart (not hardening as the Israelites did in wilderness at Meribah, where the result was death). Hebrews 3:8; Ps 95:8

(ii). Taking away the stones – stubbornness, arrogance, unbelief, UN-forgiveness, past negative experiences

(iii). Putting on the good manure (Miracle Grow??) – good fellowship and consistent prayer

(iv). Watering it – with tears, repentance and confession Matthew 8: 8-10, 15-28; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:1- 12:3

(v). Letting the sun shine on it – the Son of God to shine on us; “The Lord make his face shine upon you,” Numbers 6:24-26.

Result is hundred-fold – faith of the people surrounds us – Romans 16:1-25; James 2:14-26; Hebrews 11:6

2. Increasing Love – for each other

Example is given in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Love is:

patient, kind, does not envy, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keep no records of the wrong (forgiving seven times seventy), does not delight in evil, trusts, hopes, perseveres and never fails.

This is what the Grace of God produces when communicated to honest and faithful hearts.

John 13:34, 35; 15:7, 12; Romans 12:10; 1Thess. 3:12; 1Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11, 12 and 2 John 5

3. Perseverance of faith in all persecutions and trails.

The church of believers in the Thessalonica church suffered trials from Jews as well as from Gentiles. Acts 15:5, 13

4. Endurance in suffering

2 Thess. 1:6; 2:14, Hebrews 6:12; 11:1; 1 Peter 1:5-9; Revelation 13:10

Vs. 5-10

5. Evidence – God’s judgment

the believers were counted worthy of the Kingdom of God because of their suffering.

God is just –

a. He will take revenge on those who trouble the Christians.

Vengeance is mine says the Lord.

Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:19; Hebrews 10:30

b. Revelation of Christ – with angels, heaven, blazing fire

c. Punishment –

(i) To those who do not know God,

(ii) Who do not obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

– everlasting destruction, shut down from the presence of the Lord, from the Majestic power.

d. When He comes – the Day

Glorified – in his holy people, people who have believed.

This includes you – who believe.

Vs. 11-12

Reemphasizes – counting them worthy of the call, reminding the church that Paul is constantly praying for them.