

Lessons From II Thessalonians

Reasons For Thanksgiving

(II Th 1:3-4)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From II Thessalonians.”
 - a. Last week we looked at the “Introduction.”
 - i. **II Th 1:1-2** “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”¹
 - b. This week we are going to look at “Reasons For Thanksgiving.”
 - i. **II Th 1:3-4** “We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. 4 Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.”
3. Things to remember.
 - a. The Thessalonica brethren were young Christians.
 - i. By this time they were anywhere from 8 to 12 months old Christians.
 - b. The Thessalonica brethren were being highly persecuted by the Jews.
 - i. We see some of them had been thrown in jail.
4. With these things in mind let us examine our lesson for today.
 - a. Why do we find Paul having a “Reason For Thanksgiving?”

I. Because Their Faith Was Growing

- A. If we remember back to the first letter we would recall...
 1. That Paul had some concerns about a few lacking areas of their faith.
 - i. **I Th 3:10** “as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?”
 - a. Now though it would appear they had filled in some of what they had been lacking.
- B. How do we supply anything lacking in our faith
 1. The first thing we must do is ask God to help us.
 - i. **Lk 17:5** “The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!””
 - ii. **Ja 4:2** “...You do not have, because you do not ask.”
 2. The second thing we must do is keep our hands clean.
 - i. **Jb 17:9** “Yet the righteous holds to his way, and he who has clean hands grows stronger and stronger.”
 3. The third thing we must do is stay firmly planted in the house of the Lord.
 - i. **Ps 92:12-13** “The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13 They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.”

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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C. Thus...

1. If we continue to grow in our faith and help others do the same there will always be a reason for thanksgiving.
 - i. **II Pt 1:5, 8**

II. Because Their Love For One Another Was Growing

A. If we remember back to the first letter we would recall...

1. That Paul had prayed the Thessalonians church would abound in love towards each other.
 - i. **I Th 3:12** “and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you”
 - a. Once again it we see that our brethren there in Thessalonica heeded the words of Paul.

B. How do we go about abounding in love for one another

1. The first thing we must do is reflect back and remember part of the reason we became a Christian, to become a part of God’s loving family.
 - i. **I Pt 1:22** “Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart:
2. The second thing we must do is increase our understanding of God’s Word and ability to discern what is excellent.
 - i. **Ph 1:9-10** “And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ”

C. Thus...

1. If we continue to abound in our love for one another, a “love that is full of intelligence and understanding coupled with purpose,” and help others to do the same there will always be a reason for thanksgiving. (Notes on I Peter by WVBS pg. 31)

CONCLUSION

1. Brothers and sisters let us give others a reason to boast about us in the Lord.
 - a. The text says Paul, Timothy, and Silas boasted to other churches about the growing faith and love of the Thessalonian brethren even though they were being persecuted.
 - b. Let us be a people so dedicated and so steady in our maturity that others notice and glorify God.
2. Question: Have you grown in the faith and love for your brethren here recently?
 - a. If so do stop now but everyday mature more and more.
 - b. If not ask yourself why not and then repent and correct it now before it’s too late.

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3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**