

Lessons From I Thessalonians

Faith Love Hope

(I Th 1:2-3)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From I Thessalonians.”
 - a. Last week we examine some introductory material.
 - i. We noticed that this was written to very young Christians.
 1. Most likely only about 6 months.
 - ii. We noticed Paul was writing this letter based on the report Timothy had brought him concerning the congregation.
 1. Though the report had “some” things that needed addressing the overall report was good.
 - b. This week we are going to look at an area Paul was told the Thessalonians were thriving, “Faith, Love, & Hope.”
3. With this in mind let us examine these three things and what we can learn from their work, labor, and steadfastness in our lives.

I. Work Of Faith

- A. The Thessalonians had a working or active faith
 1. Therefore their faith was alive!!!
 - i. **Ja 2:20, 26** “Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless...26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.”¹
- B. We too must have a working faith
 1. This means our faith is centered in Christ.
 - i. **Co 1:4** “since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints”
 2. This means our faith is propelled by love.
 - i. **Ga 5:6** “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”
 - ii. **Jn 14:15** “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”
 3. This means our faith is continually growing.
 - i. **II Th 1:3** “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. Biblical faith will prompt obedient action on the believer’s part.
 - i. “Their faith had worked to make of them Christians; it had continued to work to keep them in Christ.” (Studies in First and Second Thessalonians by Taylor, Robert Jr. pg. 35)
- C. Thus...
 1. If we want an active faith it must be Christ centered, propelled by love, and never content but growing abundantly.

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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II. Labor Of Love

- A. The Thessalonians had a laboring of love
 - 1. Their love was working and active.
 - i. **I Jn 3:18** “Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”
- B. We too must have a laboring love.
 - 1. This means we allow love to motivate us.
 - i. **I Co 16:14** “Let all that you do be done in love.”
 - 2. This means we direct our love toward our brethren.
 - i. **Ro 12:10** “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”
 - ii. **Jn 13:34-35** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - 3. This means we continually grow in our love for our brethren.
 - i. **I Th 4:9-10** “Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, 10 for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more”
 - 4. This means
- C. Thus...
 - 1. If we want a laboring love we must be motivated by love to labor for our brethren and abounding in such love.
 - ii. **Ga 5:13** “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

III. Steadfastness Of Hope

- A. The Thessalonians had a steadfast hope
 - 1. Their hope was patient or steadfast.
 - i. **Ro 8:25** “But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”
 - 2. Their hope was based on what awaits the righteous.
 - i. **Co 1:5** “...the hope laid up...in heaven...”
 - ii. **I Pt 1:3-4** “...a living hope...an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you”
- B. We too must have a steadfast hope
 - 1. This means reading the Scriptures.
 - i. **Ro 15:4** “For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”
 - 2. This means trusting in Christ.
 - i. **I Ti 1:1** “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope”

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C. Thus...

1. If we want a steadfast/patient hope we must study God's Word and put our trust in Him because that hope is not wavering nor is it put to shame.
 - i. **Ro 5:2-5** "Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren may it be said of us that God knows our work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope...
 - a. And He knows it is abounding daily!!!
2. Question: If you had to today could you give a positive account of your work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
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**