

# Do You Have True Faith? 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

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- how thankful have you been as of late?
- have you been grumbling?
- well listen to this story of a Baptist saint!

## 114 Years And No Complaints

*On November 4, 2010, Eunice Sandborn became the world's oldest living person. She celebrated her 114th birthday in July, 20, 2010, at her church, First Baptist, in Jacksonville, Texas. Eunice says that she not only loves everything about her life, but she also has "no complaints." If she had wanted to complain, she would have had many things accumulate throughout her 114 years to complain of. Yet, this lady has demonstrated that complaining is a choice.*

- but imagine for a second you are the apostle Paul!

- you are working night and day so that you can continue to preach the gospel and not be a burden to the new Christian

\_\_\_\_\_

- people are trying to \_\_\_\_\_ you from preaching the message of hope found in the Lord Jesus Christ
- Would you still be thankful? Would you be boasting in the Lord? Would you still be joyful in the Lord?

- what was Paul doing ?
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

- Paul has written this \_\_\_\_\_ letter to the Thessalonians for \_\_\_\_\_ reasons

1) to \_\_\_\_\_ this congregation in the midst of the suffering and \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Thessalonians 1)

2) to \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_ teaching on the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming  
of the Lord Jesus Christ

- there were some people in the  
congregation who were teaching that the  
2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus had already come  
- Paul corrects this false teaching by  
reminding them that “this day” – the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
coming of Jesus – will not come about until  
the man of lawlessness is revealed

3) to address the issue of \_\_\_\_\_ in  
the congregation

- Paul exhorts them to work hard and to be  
busy with their hands!

- so with these three issues in the forefront  
we can now start to look at this letter!

## 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

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

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and  
the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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.

### Outline:

1) (1:1-2) Grace and \_\_\_\_\_ From God

2) (1:3) \_\_\_\_\_ To God

3) (1:4) Boasting in \_\_\_\_\_

## 1) (1:1-2) Grace and Peace From God

(1:1) Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the  
church of the Thessalonians in God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ:

- just like the letter of 1 Thessalonians, 2  
Thessalonians has the same three

1) \_\_\_\_\_ the apostle who was a great  
missionary for the Lord Jesus

2) \_\_\_\_\_ – a church leader in  
Jerusalem and fellow missionary with

3) \_\_\_\_\_ – a young disciple of Paul  
and the Pastor in the church of Ephesus

Who received this letter? – the

\_\_\_\_\_ of the Thessalonians

- Thessalonica was a prominent \_\_\_\_\_  
city

- the city was named after the sister of  
Alexander the Great

- this city was important because it had a  
\_\_\_\_\_ that was busy

- as well the land around Thessalonica was  
very fertile

- so we have a city that focused on  
\_\_\_\_\_ and agriculture

- but we furthermore need to note that the  
city of Thessalonica had a mix of \_\_\_\_\_  
and Gentiles and likely the church had a mix  
of Jew and \_\_\_\_\_ converts

- but do you see how Paul addresses these  
believers?

- yes they are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
Thessalonians, yes they live in Thessalonica,  
but there is something more important  
about them than where they live!

- they are “in God our Father and the Lord  
Jesus Christ”

- this important phrase, we could easily just rush by it and miss the important truths that it speaks
- this verse teaches us about the blessing of our life in the Lord Jesus Christ
- the blessing is that when we are a Christian, we are \_\_\_\_\_ - with God the Father and God the Son
- we are **IN** the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Son
- we exist \_\_\_\_\_ the realm of the Father and the Son
- meaning that we are no longer under \_\_\_\_\_ for our sin but are in a right relationship with God
- if you do not think sin affects relationships just start sinning against people, you will see how much sin \_\_\_\_\_ affects your life and your relationships
- as well our sin detrimentally \_\_\_\_\_ our relationship and our status before the Lord!
- but because of the grace of Christ although we live in Dryden we can be in Christ and in the Father!
- how much do we need the \_\_\_\_\_ of this reality that Dryden, or wherever you live, is not your home, but you \_\_\_\_\_ with God and you will know the fullness of God at your death or at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus
- what a blessing to know that in Christ we \_\_\_\_\_ to God and are God's child!

**(1:2) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

- Paul starts this letter out much the same as he starts other letters out, with \_\_\_\_\_ and peace!

#### A) the Grace of God

- the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is defined as favor or goodness shown to people who are

absolutely not \_\_\_\_\_ of this goodness of God

- there are many passages that teach us about the grace of \_\_\_\_\_
- we could look to \_\_\_\_\_ 1 and be reminded of the grace of God in making the world and people
- we could look the to the grace of God given to \_\_\_\_\_ in Genesis 6:1-8
- but Paul is very clear in his teaching on the grace of God in the book of \_\_\_\_\_!

**Titus 3:3-7** For we ourselves were once \_\_\_\_\_, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, \_\_\_\_\_ by others and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he \_\_\_\_\_ us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being \_\_\_\_\_ by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- in Titus we see humanity's totally depravity
- Titus 3:3 certainly describes me pretty well, how about you?
- but then we hear about the \_\_\_\_\_ and loving kindness of God – Jesus Christ appears
- Jesus Christ saves us, not because we have done \_\_\_\_\_ single thing that makes us deserving
- we are \_\_\_\_\_ by grace and made right with God by grace!
- please remember, if you can work for your salvation or if you are trusting in yourself to save yourself, then you are \_\_\_\_\_ trusting in the grace of God or God for your salvation

- you are hoping that God will give you what you \_\_\_\_\_ you deserve!
- but we all see what we deserve in 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 – we \_\_\_\_\_ punishment for our sin!
- but God's grace \_\_\_\_\_ us from the punishment of sin through faith in Christ!

## B) the Peace of God

- our personal situation with the Lord is not \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Thessalonians 1:9** They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

- but \_\_\_\_\_ comes from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!
- what peace is Paul referring to here?
- Paul is referring to the \_\_\_\_\_ between two parties that are hostile or at odds!
- but thanks be to God the Father, He gave us His Son.
- Thanks be to Jesus for His \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross
- the work of Jesus brings \_\_\_\_\_ and that is why Paul can speak about peace from God

**Colossians 1:20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- the work of Christ brings \_\_\_\_\_ and peace to us. Praise the Lord!
- our greatest need is to be a \_\_\_\_\_ who find rest and joy in the peace and \_\_\_\_\_ of God!

## 2) (1:3) Thanks To God

**We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right,**

- this is truly an amazing phrase!
- note that we ought, or it is right, or they are obligated, to \_\_\_\_\_ thanks to God
- and do you see that they must " \_\_\_\_\_ " give thanks!
- \_\_\_\_\_ is an obligation
- why such strong language for thanksgiving to God?
- the reason why Paul and company must thank God is because the Thessalonians are \_\_\_\_\_ God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and this is a complete work of God alone!
- meaning they are \_\_\_\_\_ because of the grace of God
- but GK Beale makes things very clear for us!  
*"Paul thanks God and not the readers for their faith, love and endurance and this shows that they contributed nothing to achieving salvation but were the objects of God's unconditional, gracious action."*
- remember what Paul has said about the Thessalonians!  
**1 Thessalonians 1:4** For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,  
**2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.
- see what Paul calls these Christians?  
" \_\_\_\_\_ "
- Paul uses a term of \_\_\_\_\_ here to remind them that they belong to the family of God

- Paul is \_\_\_\_\_ for God's work among them making them "brothers and sisters"

- Paul calls this thankfulness "\_\_\_\_\_" meaning that this is something that is right for Paul to do!

- Paul again continues to live out what he \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**because your faith is growing abundantly,**

- the first reason why Paul thanks God is because this church's faith is \_\_\_\_\_

- Paul is referring to their \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ

- faith is a confidence or a \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus Christ

- faith is trusting the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ

- faith is trusting the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross!

- their trust in the Lord was not stagnant, their faith continued to progress and \_\_\_\_\_

- many people who profess to be Christians have said the sinners prayer and they even have tolerated church for a while and then they think they have done what they need to do to be a Christians

- but we need God to \_\_\_\_\_ our faith in Christ

- we need to see day by day that we need Christ Jesus for \_\_\_\_\_ and grace

- because we daily sin and rebel against God

- but we also need God's grace to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ us to stop sinning and walk in \_\_\_\_\_ to God

- since Paul thanks God for this he must mean that God makes their \_\_\_\_\_ grow!

- are you asking God to grow your faith day by day?

- are you growing in your faith by getting into the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and listening to God's great works

- when I get into the \_\_\_\_\_ everyday and see the greatness of God my faith grows even if it is just by baby steps!

**and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.**

- here we see the very \_\_\_\_\_ of gospel living!

- those who truly have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are \_\_\_\_\_ people!

- if you show me a Christian that does \_\_\_\_\_ care about other people than you are showing me a person who is not a Christian

- if you show me a person who does not love the church, is not \_\_\_\_\_ with the people of God, is not fellowshiping with the people of God, is not serving the people of God, then you are showing me a person who is not a Christian

- this \_\_\_\_\_ to love one another is exhorted so many times that if we fail to obey God in this area we have to wonder if we have experienced the love of God ourselves

- Like we talked about numerous times, in the Bible there are about \_\_\_\_\_ "one to another"

- and can you guess what percentage of those "one to another" are "love one another"?

- the answer is around \_\_\_\_\_

- John in his gospel and his letters commands this extensively

- John 13:34 A new \_\_\_\_\_ I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
- John 13:35 By this all people will know that you are my \_\_\_\_\_, if you have love for one another."
- 1 John. 3:11 For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.
- 1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
- 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.
- 1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.
- 1 John 4:12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

- this command to love one another is crystal \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible and we need to stress this again that this command is connected to what the Bible says about loving God and experiencing the love of God

- this is laying \_\_\_\_\_ your life for people, caring for people and carrying the burdens of people

- we do not have to look very hard to see that the world is very unloving and ungodly

- we see enough examples in the world of what love is not, let us not be that kind of example

- Jesus has not \_\_\_\_\_ us for the purpose of remaining in ungodliness, but Jesus Christ has saved us so that we would \_\_\_\_\_ in love with one another!

- but again we need to stress this fact that this increase of love is a complete work of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and that is why Paul thanks God

- as well we know that Paul had already prayed to the Lord that they would \_\_\_\_\_ in love

**1 Thessalonians 3:12** and may the Lord make you \_\_\_\_\_ and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,  
- and now Paul thanks God for the love that they have for each other!

### 3) (1:4) Boasting in God

Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith

- the "therefore" is there for to bring us back to God's \_\_\_\_\_ among them

- because the Lord is at work among them, their \_\_\_\_\_ and their \_\_\_\_\_ keeps growing

- because of the work of God among them Paul the apostle \_\_\_\_\_ in God

- this word "boast" is only used here in the New Testament

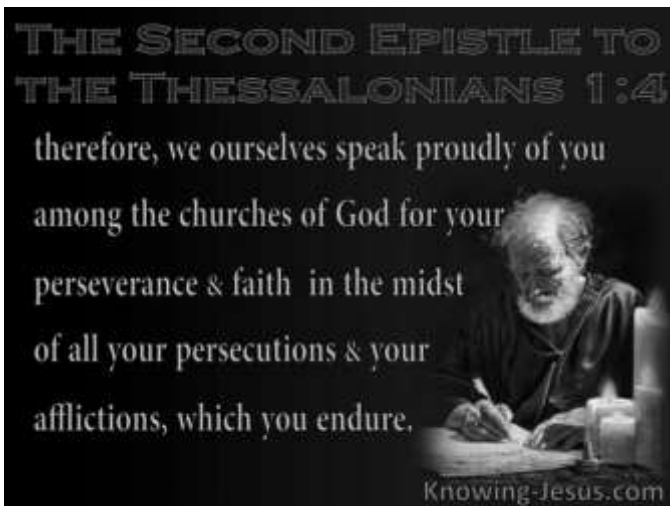
- this is a boasting that has an intensified meaning therefore this is boasting to the \_\_\_\_\_

- Paul again boasts in God's work, that in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_ and persecutions, that their faith keeps growing!

in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring.

- now there is great debate on what persecution is in Canada right now





- but we need to look at things from a Biblical perspective and not an emotional perspective
- biblical persecution is any sort of negative pressure because of your faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ

## Application

### 1) Do You Have A Growing Faith?

- we talk a lot about faith but what does this faith mean?
- faith is a \_\_\_\_\_ in the person of Jesus Christ
- you have \_\_\_\_\_ in what the Lord can do and who He is!
- but this faith is also a trust in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ
- this is an acknowledgement that you have sinned against the Lord
- this is a \_\_\_\_\_ for your sin for your rebellion against God
- and you \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord Jesus and you embrace the Lord Jesus and what He has done for you!
- we ought to \_\_\_\_\_ God to \_\_\_\_\_ our faith, our knowledge and trust in the Lord Jesus
- if you are a Christian cry out to God

- whether you are weak or strong in your faith will you commit to asking God to increase your faith and \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus Christ
- let us as well commit to praying this for one another just like Paul did!

**Mark 9:20-25** And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. <sup>22</sup> And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." <sup>23</sup> And Jesus said to him, "'If you can!' All things are possible for one who believes." <sup>24</sup> Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" <sup>25</sup> And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

- if you do not know the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ God to give you faith
- faith is a \_\_\_\_\_ from God and if you do not have faith, cry out to God to have mercy upon you because your sin has put you at \_\_\_\_\_ with God

### 2) Do You Have A Growing Love?

- like I have said "show me a person who does not care about other people and that is a person who does not love the Lord"
- because the \_\_\_\_\_ to love one another is so much in the Bible we ought to take this command seriously
- although we ought to take serious all the commands of God this command is particularly serious

- again we need the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to carry out this love, because our natural inclination is to not \_\_\_\_\_ !

- we are prone to be \_\_\_\_\_ , arrogant, self-preserving, self-seeking and everything in between

- Lord have \_\_\_\_\_ upon us!

- but let us look to the love of Christ, while we were enemies, \_\_\_\_\_ against God, the Lord Jesus loved us

- while we did not have Jesus on our mind, Jesus Christ came to \_\_\_\_\_ us!

**John 10:11** I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd \_\_\_\_\_ down his life for the sheep.

- let us \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and look to the beauty of the Lord

- let us strive to walk with one another in love!

- Paul has already given a good definition of \_\_\_\_\_ in how we are to treat one another

**1 Thessalonians 5:14-15** And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. <sup>15</sup> See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

**Coming up  
next week:  
2 Thessalonians 1:5-8**