

SPIRITUAL FRUITFULNESS – FAITH, HOPE, LOVE

Hymn 201 – There is Power in the Blood

Paul's Message to the Thessalonians – A church planted in three weeks! And it bore fruit! Much fruit! How fruitful is your life? Is my life?

Act 17:16; 1Th 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 1Th 1:3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

Faith, Hope, and Love!

1Th 1:3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, - Justification!

- What is work of faith? – John 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." – Your belief in Christ!
- Eph 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, [9] not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- Not boasting! We have nothing to be proud in-it's all about Him! What He has done!
- Believing in God – that is the work of faith! Jesus is the Christ
- Reveling in the finished work of Christ – justification, not just not guilty, but a declaration of innocent of ever doing the sin or even the memory of the sin from my Father's standpoint!
- The blood of Jesus of Christ – so powerful it washes away, even the memory of my sin! Power, power, wonder working power!
- Faith takes care of my past.

labor of love, - Sanctification! – Love is in the present! Something I choose to do!

- The work of faith causes me then to labor in love! – love one for another!
- Labor – the pushing out of love! Your bringing forth! The love of the Lord, being expressed through you and me!
- Love takes care of the present! As I give to another, love another, my heart will also go!
- Being set apart – embracing your faith
- The present – love, a verb, something I choose to do.
- Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - So as I do that, that is where my treasure is!

and patience of hope – Glorification - Our blessed hope-the absolute expectation of His coming!

- Living for the coming of the Lord! This world is not my home! Looking for the Lord, each and every day!
- Comfort one another with these words!
- Norwegian wharf rats - 40 minutes, then died; but after hope, they lasted 12 hours. They were rescued before – they had hope!
- Let's keep swimming! Our Lord is coming!
- Where faith takes care of the past, my hope takes care of the future.

In three weeks they were schooled so well in looking for Jesus' second coming! So important!

How does that look in your life? Your work of faith- are you reveling in that? - Justification, Lord, I'm saved!

Are you laboring in love? Pushing out? Bringing forth love, continually? If I'm loving, my heart is going to follow!

Are you a witness of hope – Looking for the Lord's return?

Paul commends the Thessalonians for the work of faith, their labor of love and their patience of hope!

He then talks about his own conduct in 1 Thess. Chapter 2: *1Th 2:1-12 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. [2] But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. [3] For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. [4] But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. [5] For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness. [6] Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. [7] But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. [8] So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. (we came to you as a nursing mother!! – that love!) [9] For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. (we came to you as a brother, working with you, alongside you, a brother in faith) [10] You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; [11] as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, (we came to you as a Father- easy to please, but hard to satisfy! – to exhort you!) [12] that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.*

- **Where do I stand? Where do you stand?**
- **Do I cherish people as a nursing mother?**
- **Am I like a brother to others, to come alongside?**
- **Am I a father to others, to exhort and encourage them?**
- **Where does my church stand? - Pray for our church that all of us would love others and be that of a mother, a brother and a father, to them!**
- **Work of Faith – Justification; Labor of Love – Sanctification; Patience for Hope - Glorification**