

“The Solid Rock (My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less)” – Edward Mote – Maranatha Music

1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When Darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace. In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)

3 When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found! Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! (Refrain)

Context/Biblical Background – This epistle is full of interest. It is among the first of those which have been preserved for us from the pen of Paul. It was the first he wrote to European Christians, and in it the fundamental things of the Christian life are clearly made. 1 THESS. 1:2-4 - faith, love and hope! – Here is the Apostle's prayer, continually praying for this for the Thessalonians.

1Th 1:2-4 *We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, [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, [4] knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.*

We give thanks to God always for you all: - When Paul thought of the Christians in Thessalonica, his heart filled with gratitude. Paul started the church there in less than ideal circumstances, being run out of town after only three weekends with them ([Act 17:1-10](#)). Yet the church was strong and full of life. Paul knew that this work was beyond him and his abilities and that it was the work of God.

- ***Thanks*** for their being a church, for the gifts bestowed on them, for the graces that were brought forth in them and exercised by them; the glory of all which is given to God, and thanks for the same, which shows them to be gifts of His, and not in the least owing to any merits of men: the apostle ascribes nothing to their free will, previous dispositions and qualifications, diligence and work.

Making mention of you in our prayers: - To God, daily, both in private and in public, at which times thanksgivings to God were made on their account; for thanksgiving is a part of prayer, and requests are always to be made known unto God with thanksgiving.

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith: - There were things about the Christians in Thessalonica that Paul simply could not forget. He always remembered them. What he remembered about them made him thankful.

- Their faith and their work of faith. Their faith, (***1Th 1:8***) was very famous, and spread abroad.
- Wherever there is a true faith, it will work. It will have an influence upon hearts and lives;
- It will put us upon working for God and for our own walk with the Lord.

labor of love, - Labor tests the strength of love. We show our love to Christ by what we do for Him. Love makes even drudgery an enjoyment. It leads us to attempt what we would once have shrunk from in dismay.

- Love to God and Christ will constrain a believer to engage in, and go through, great

hardships, difficulties, toil, and labor, for their sakes.

- Love to the saints will exert itself, by serving them in things temporal and spiritual, ministering cheerfully and largely to their outward wants.
- Praying for them and with them; building them up in their most holy faith; restoring them when fallen in a spirit of meekness; and stirring them up to love and good works:
- Faith works by love. It shows itself in the exercise of love to God and love to others.
- Jesus said, (*Joh_14:15*) "*If you love Me, keep My commandments.*" If you don't love Him, you will find it nothing but tedium and labor to try to keep His commandments.

and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ: - These persons had a good hope through grace given unto them, and which was founded in Christ Jesus, in His person, blood, and righteousness, and so was as an anchor sure and steadfast;

- It had Him for its object, it was an hope of interest in Him, of being for ever with Him, of His, second coming and glorious appearance, and of eternal life and happiness through Him; and this was attended with patience, with a patient bearing of reproaches, afflictions, and persecutions, for the sake of Christ, and a patient waiting for His coming, His kingdom and glory.
- Because of their patient hope. It was severely tried, but not quenched. It is hard to hope in the midst of discouragement. It was so with Joseph in prison, with David in the mountains of Judah, with the Jews in Babylon. But the grace of patience gives constancy to hope.
- Wherever there is a well-grounded hope of eternal life, it will appear by the exercise of patience; in a patient bearing of the calamities and difficulties of the present time; in a patient waiting for the glory to be revealed.

in the sight of God and our Father; or before God and our Father; - In connection either with the above graces, which were exercised, not only before men, but before God, and in his sight, who sees not as man sees, and who cannot be deceived and imposed upon; and so shows that these graces were true and genuine, faith was unfeigned, love was without dissimulation, and hope without hypocrisy:

- Or with the word remembering as we appear before God, and lift up our hands and our hearts unto him in prayer, we bear you upon our minds before God; and particularly remember your operative faith, laborious love, and patient hope of Christ.

knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. -The fountain from where these graces flow, namely, God's electing love.

- From the operations of Christian grace in them Paul knew they were God's elect. Everyone who is called, is elected from the first moment of his faith; and so long as he continues in his calling and faith, he continues to be elected; if at any time he loses calling and faith, he ceases to be elected."
- Speaking of their election, he calls them, ***beloved brethren;*** for the original of the brotherhood that is between Christians and the relation wherein they stand one to another is election.
- This it is a good reason why we should *love one another*, because we are all beloved of God, and were beloved of Him in His counsels when there was not anything in us to merit his love.
- The election of God is of his own good pleasure and simply grace, not for the sake of any merit in those who are chosen.
- The election of God may be known by the fruits thereof.
- Whenever we are giving thanks to God for his grace either to ourselves or others, we should give thanks to God for His electing love, by which we are made to differ.

Summary: -

- ❖ Faith, love and hope! – How active, how vibrant and alive is your faith? Your love? Your hope?
- ❖ Faith, hope, and love are the three important virtues of the Christian life, and the three greatest evidences of salvation. Faith must always lead to works
- ❖ Love is also an evidence of salvation: Are you a dedicated Christian? If so, prove it by your love, and love manifests itself in obedience.
- ❖ The third evidence of salvation is hope, waiting for Jesus Christ to return (1Th_1:10).
- ❖ Faith, hope, and love are evidences of election. These spiritual qualities are bound together and can come only from God.
- ❖ **1 Peter 1:3-9**, (*hope, faith, love*)....a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ... the genuineness of your faith,having not seen you love.

Pray Today For:

Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and proposed Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. Proposed Cabinet Members: Sec. of State – Rex Tillerson; Energy – Rick Perry; Interior – Ryan Zinke; Defense – James Mattis; Treasury – Steven Mnuchin; Attorney General – Jeff Sessions; HUD – Ben Carson; Commerce – Wilbur Ross; Health & Human Services – Tom Price; Education – Betsy DeVos; Trans. – Elaine Chou; U.N Ambassador – Nikki Haley; Labor – Andrew Puzder; Homeland Security – Gen. John Kelly; EPA – Scott Pruitt; Budget – Mick Mulvaney; SBA – Linda McMahon; Cabinet Level Officials: – Reince Priebus; Nat'l Security Advisor – Michael Flynn; Chief Strategist – Stephen Bannon; White House Council – Donald McGahn; Counselor to Pres. – Kellyanne Conway; Press Sec. Sean Spicer; Agriculture – Sonny Perdue; Vet. Affairs – Donald Shulkin; C.I.A. Director – Mike Pompeo; Amb. to Israel – David Friedman; Nat Econ Council Dir. – Gary Cohn; Nat. Intell. – Dan Coats; US Trade Rep. – Robert Lighthizer; Sr. Adv. to Pres. – Jared Kushner; Homeland Sec. Adv. – Thomas Bossert; Spec. Adv. Reg. Reform – Carl Icahn; Dir. Trade Policy – Peter Navarro; Cyber Security – Rudy Giuliani

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