

1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-4

Loved & Chosen

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³remembering in the presence of our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴knowing, brothers loved by God, your election. ■

Ch.1-3 LOOKING BACK: how they were saved

Ch. 4-5 LOOKING ON: how they should live

- This letter is an eloquent celebration of a church thriving in difficult times.
- Getting our bearings: Paul is so concerned about the congregation that he sends Timothy back to see how they're doing. This letter is a response to Timothy's report—in fact, a grand thank you to God!
- What's the connection between Paul's thanksgiving (vs.2) and their election (vs.3)?

MATTHEW 13: THE PARABLE OF THE FOUR SOILS

- Soil 1 > beside the road
- Soil 2 > rocky
- Soil 3 > thorny
- Soil 4 > good and fruitful

- Paul offers evidences in verse 3 that these people were really saved. Who gets the credit for these marks of salvation? The people or God?
- Examine yourself by using these three tests of being one of God's elect.

WORK (job done)	of (produced by)	FAITH	Seen in how you SUBMIT
LABOR (pains spent)	of (prompted by)	LOVE	Seen in how you SACRIFICE
STEADFASTNESS (trials endured)	of (inspired by)	HOPE IN CHRIST	Seen in how you SUFFER

- Don't make legalistic metrics out of these. Use them to celebrate, not segregate! (Remember that other parable from Jesus: the wheat and the tares!)