

Building Blocks

I Thess 1: 1-10

Building Blocks

- Last week we ended our study of Philippians
 - The church at Philippi was established on Paul's second missionary journey
 - Leaving Philippi, Paul and Silas now go to Thessalonica
- Acts 17: 1-10
 - In Thessalonica Paul stays for a short time
 - Yet a church is established there
 - And now about 1 year later Paul writes them this letter
 - This is the first epistle Paul wrote
 - Apparently only stayed there for 3 weeks? (Vs 2)

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- A little background of Thessalonica
 - Founded around 326 B.C.
 - It was the largest city of Asia Minor
 - Crime was rampant in the city
 - Many homes built with no windows
 - Female children abandoned all over the city
 - Prostitution was a main industry
 - Murder was an everyday occurrence
- I Thess 1: 1-10
 - In this passage are a number of points we will study

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- Here is a listing.....
- Vs 3
 - Work of faith
 - Labor of love
 - Steadfastness/patience of hope
- Vs 5.....our gospel came
 - In power
 - In the Holy Spirit
 - With full conviction

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- Vs 6.....imitators of us
 - With tribulation and joy
 - You became an example (Vs 7)
- Vs 8.....the Word of the Lord
 - Sounded forth from you
 - Your faith has gone forth....everywhere
- Vs 9.....you turned to God
 - From idols
 - To serve a living and true God

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- Vs 10.....to wait
 - For the return of Jesus Christ
 - Who was raised from the dead
 - That is Jesus
 - Who rescues us
 - From the wrath to come
- Today we are going to focus on Vs 1-3
 - Vs 1...the greeting of Paul
 - Grace and peace
 - Every letter of Paul begins and ends with a mention of one or both

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- Vs 2....we give thanks for all of you
 - Paul was only in Thessalonica 3 weeks
 - Making mention of you in our prayers
 - In this verse, we see the importance of praying for one another
 - Note the word “always” in Vs 2
 - As the Holy Spirit brings people to your mind
 - Lift them up to the Lord
 - I Cor 12: 13-18; 26-27

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- As a side note
 - Note the comparison to I Cor 13...
 - Faith, hope and love
 - Here is the listing...faith, love and hope
- Vs 3....work of faith
 - In the realm of faith there are two aspects
 - One aspect is..... trust
 - The other aspect is..... distrust
 - Prov 3: 5-6
 - Trust in the Lord.....
 - Psa 56: 8-11; Psa 13: 5; Psa 40: 4-8; Jer 17: 5-8

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- The second aspect is distrust
 - You should follow your heart????
 - Jer 17: 9-10, Prov 14: 30;
 - James 3: 16; Luke 6: 45; Isa 65: 13-14
 - Prov 4: 20-27; Prov 27: 19; Ezek 36: 26; Prov 3: 3-4; Psa 42: 5-11
 - Every time we trust in our heart/feelings
 - The result is depression and sorrow
 - Every time we trust in God
 - The result is hope

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- Note Vs 3...the work of faith
 - Faith is the hand that grasps the hand of God
 - Faith/trust is the channel of the life of grace
 - It is through grace that we received the life of Christ
 - Faith is the door of the Holy Spirit from above
 - Showing us, all the goodness God has in store for us
 - Faith is the opening of the sunshine of God's love
 - If we do not have faith in God
 - We have nothing in our lives of value

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- Labor of love....
 - No one can love God unless they believe that God loves them
 - Just as they are at this present time
 - The love of God is the soul satisfying need your heart is yearning for
 - It is the love of God which will melt the frozen condition of our hearts which is brought on by the selfishness of sin.
 - "Did God really say???"
 - Satan's favorite lie yet today is this one....

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- The third foundational stone is “hope”
 - Hope is always directed to the future
 - When faith arises and love is manifested in our hearts
- Then is realized in our hearts the glories of what God has in store for those who trust in Him
 - Rev 22: 1-7
 - Faith, love and hope.....the foundation of living

Good and Gracious King

Good and Gracious King

- I approach the throne of glory
Nothing in my hands I bring
But the promise of acceptance
From a good and gracious King
- I will give to You my burden
As You give to me Your strength
Come and fill me with Your Spirit
As I sing to You this praise

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome, I lift my voice
To the King in need of nothing
Empty handed I rejoice
- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome with joy I sing
By Your love I am accepted
You're a good and gracious King

Good and Gracious King

- O what grace that You would see me
As Your child and as Your friend
Safe, secure in You forever
I pour out my praise again
- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome, I lift my voice
To the King in need of nothing
Empty handed I rejoice

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome with joy I sing
By Your love I am accepted
You're a good and gracious King

Good and Gracious King

- Holy, holy, Lord Almighty
Good and gracious
Good and gracious
Holy, holy, Lord Almighty
Good and gracious King (repeat)

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome, I lift my voice
To the King in need of nothing
Empty handed I rejoice

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome with joy I sing
By Your love I am accepted
You're a good and gracious King
You're a good and gracious King
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