

THIS WEEK

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, KAILUA KONA, HAWAII

events

Aloha! Thanks for worshipping with us either online or in person this morning. We ask that you wear your mask at all times other than during worship.

Please sign in your children for **Nursery and Kid's Church** at the back table.

Middle School Youth Group
Wednesdays 4:30-6pm

Prayer with the Elders after service in the Koa Room.

Business Meeting - and a bounce house for the kids - will be after the service, **Oct 10**.

Men's Breakfast Oct 9 at 8 am

Harvest Festival - Oct 30

Food Drive today

Communion today

Ways to Serve:

- KKO starts tomorrow.
Training today at 3-4 pm
- Harvest Festival planning meeting today after service

Ways to Give:

- Online on our website or app
- Giving box on Sundays
- Mail a check to the church



SERMON NOTES

Andrew Severinsen
1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Big Idea: Paul's thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' faith, love, & hope is rooted in their imitation of godly standards and in their example of work, labor, & steadfastness in the midst of much tribulation.

- Work of Faith
- Labor of Love
- Steadfastness of Hope

GRACE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Greeting (1:1):

- Geographically, the Thessalonians believers were located in the city of Thessalonica in Macedonia (modern day northern Greece). Spiritually, however, they were “in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Why do you think Paul begins by highlighting their “spiritual address”? What does it mean to be “in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”?

Thanksgiving (1:2-10):

- When you think of faith, love, and hope, what related words or images come to mind? In verse 3, Paul connects this triad of virtues to some remarkably active words: work, labor, steadfastness. Why do you think he does this? What implications might this have as we examine our own faith, love, and hope?
- Although the doctrine of election has often sparked controversy, Paul views it not as a weapon for fighting but as a tool for encouragement. How could the Thessalonians be confident that God had elected them (verses 4-5)? How should this logic embolden us for evangelism?
- Just as the Thessalonians imitated Paul and his fellow workers (verse 6), so others are now imitating the Thessalonians (verses 7-8). Have you become an example to anyone? What about our church 'ohana as a whole?
- If the Thessalonians have turned from idols to the “living and true God” (verse 9), what does that say about the nature of idols? What false god most distracts you from serving the true God? How is that false god lifeless instead of “living”?
- In verses 9-10, Paul connects waiting (something we often think of as passive) with serving (something we usually think of as active). How does Christian waiting differ from worldly waiting, and why is this a crucial distinction?
- Define these theological terms: past **justification**, present **sanctification**, and future **glorification**.
- Also in verses 9-10, the camera pans from salvation past to salvation/deliverance future. Having renounced God-substitutes for God Himself, we now await the return of God's Risen Son, who will rescue/deliver us from God's coming wrath. How does the description of the Thessalonians' transformation correspond to the believer's experience of past justification, present sanctification, and future glorification?