

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

A model Church

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians

in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you,

constantly mentioning you in our prayers,

remembering *before our God and Father* your

work of faith and (active piety, holiness with internal prompting in an effectual way)

labor of love and (action toward one another and strangers as an external practice motivated by Christ work)

steadfastness of hope (ability to patiently endure with a strong belief in what is to come)

in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Joining prayer with praise
- A Church born in the midst of affliction, paganism, unsupporting government and growing in persecuting times
- Thessalonica was a “free city” to rule itself with a governing board called “politarchs”, now called Solanika
- Most of the early converts were gentiles coming out of idolatry
- As Paul preached in the synagogue the Jews became combative dragging Jason (Paul’s host) to secure Paul’s departure
- Paul supported himself by tentmaking during the day and grew the church by night
- Paul’s stay was probably a few short months before being pushed into Corinth
- There is a depth of feeling toward the Christians there along with a high importance of doctrine & theology
- The city had Jewish merchants from the diaspora of Israel, the synagogue was a very Paul place to share the gospel
- Upon his forced departure he left a thriving & growing church, within a few months it was big enough breed jealousy
- Conversions like Gaius and Demus were around that time, Timothy is sent back to Thessalonica to check on them
- Acts chapters 16 and 17 run along with these letters in describing the church and events
- This church had impact, resistance, depth, resilience, love, deeds and desire for understanding truth
- Work of faith - active work in the whole Christian life, energized by faith
- Labor of love - weary toil with sweat of a strain with all ones power
- Steadfastness of hope - a spirit of blazing bearing all things because it knows all things leading to glory
- Those things which are produced by faith, hope and love in & by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ