

MESSAGE: Thankful for the Church

September 26, 2021

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

Pastor Cory Anderson

Community Group Questions

Introduction:

1. Give thanks to God in _____ (v.2).

1 Thessalonians 1:2: “We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers...”

2. Give thanks to God for a _____ (v.2-3).

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3: “We give thanks to God...³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

A. A _____ that produces _____ (1:3a).

B. A _____ that produces _____ (1:3b).

C. A _____ that produces _____ (1:3c).

3. Give thanks to God for _____ (v.4).

1 Thessalonians 1:4: “For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you...”

Conclusion:

1. What impacted you from Sunday’s sermon?
2. What can we learn from Paul’s prayer life from 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 5:17?
3. Paul is thankful for the Thessalonians’ *“faith that produces works”* and their *“love that produces labor”* (1:3). **Three questions:**
 - A. Paul uses two different Greek words for “work” (works, deeds) and “labor” (toil and struggle). Considering what Paul says, how should we think about serving? What does it look like to “work” and “labor” for the sake of others (1 Corinthians 15:58; Romans 16:6, 12)? Are you actively involved in doing “work” and “labor” in ministry? If not, how might you get involved?
 - B. What role does “faith” play in our “work”? Why does faith result in works?
 - C. What role does “love” play in our “labor”? Why does love result in labor?
4. Paul is thankful for the Thessalonians’ *“hope that produces steadfastness”* (1:3). **Five questions:**
 - A. What is our hope according to 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-5:11, 23; and Titus 2:13?
 - B. How is this hope different than the hope we typically refer to?
 - C. How does the hope spoken of by Paul produce steadfastness?
 - D. Why did the Thessalonian believers need to know about this hope? (See Acts 17:5-9; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:14-3:5).
 - E. What’s going on in our world around us, and how should our hope affect the way we live, behave, and think?