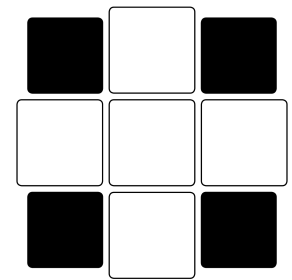


Faith and Love in The Church

Scripture: **2 Thessalonians 1:1–4**

Series: **Future Grace for Godliness**

Sunday, September 28, 2016



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Overview

In 2 Thessalonians, Paul is writing to the church in Thessalonica who were undergoing persecution and had accepted false doctrine regarding the Day of the Lord. We see in chapter 1:1-4 that Paul is giving thanks and comforting the Thessalonians as they are showing the marks of a health church—**faith and love**.

Corraborating Texts

Galatians 2:16, 3:26; 1 John 5:8; John 13:35; 1 John 4:7-11

Discussion Questions

1. Paul praises the Thessalonians because their faith is growing abundantly. How would you describe Christian faith? [not bland spirituality, but dependence on union with Christ (see Galatians 2:16, 3:26)]
2. What three parts make up faith? [knowledge, ascent, & trust]
3. Pastor Joe described growing faith to be driven by three things: 1.) deepening our knowledge of God, 2.) strengthening our trust in God and 3.) vocalizing our faith. How do these things practically play out in your lives? How can you improve?
4. The second mark of a healthy church is love. Christian love is the identity of the Christian—it is a love full of emotion and devotion. Read 1 John 4:7-11. How does the love that we receive in the gospel affect how you love others?
5. Paul praises the Thessalonians for their growing faith and their abundant love even when going through severe persecution and affliction. How is their steadfastness during difficult times something we can strive towards?