

Thanking God for the Saints

1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

Main Idea: Paul Is Expressing Thanksgiving for the Church in Thessalonica.

One Verb: *Give Thanks*

Three Participles: *Making Mention, Remembering, Knowing*

1.) The Manner of Thanksgiving

"do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers"

Ephesians 1:16

"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,"

Romans 1:8-9

- They always gave thanks to God mentioning them constantly when they prayed.

"...that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,"

Luke 18:1

- This is no mere formality

2.) His Immediate Reason for Giving Thanks

*"But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you—**7** therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith **8** For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord."*

1 Thessalonians 3:6-8

A.) Work Produced by Faith

"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love."

Galatians 5:6

"We are saved by faith alone, but it is not a faith that stays alone."

–Martin Luther

*"Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, **12** that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

B.) Labor Prompted by Love

"But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another"

1 Thessalonians 4:9

"Far from being simply an emotion, love sought the best for the other and labored for the other's benefit."

–Gene L. Green

C.) Patience of Hope In Our Lord Jesus Christ

"The hope they held was not some vague expectation about a better future, but rather, solid confidence rooted in the expectation of Christ's coming."

–Gene L. Green

- Paul's Purpose Behind This

1.) To Encourage the Saints

2.) To Challenge the Saints

*"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ **24** He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it."*

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

3.) The Ultimate Reason for Giving Thanks

5 Observations on the Doctrine of Election:

1.) Election is Clearly Taught in Scripture

2.) Scripture Teaches that Election is Exclusively the Act of God

3.) We Need to Have a Biblical Understanding of God, man, and sin Before we can Have a Biblical Understanding of Election

4.) In Scripture, Election is Intimately Connected to God's love

5.) The Doctrine of Election Was Not Meant to Spark Theological Debates