

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

3 We ought always to give thanks

to God for you, brethren,
as is *only* fitting,
because your faith is greatly enlarged,
and the love
of each one of you
toward one another
grows *ever* greater;

4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God
for your perseverance
and faith
in the midst of all your persecutions
and afflictions which you endure.

1. Who are Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy giving thanks for?
2. How often does Paul say they should give thanks in this way? What does he mean by this?
3. Why should they give thanks in this way? Why should these external realities cause internal thanks?
4. What specifically about the faith of these believers are Paul and his coworkers in the gospel noticing in the Thessalonians?

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5. What specifically about the love of these believers are they noticing?

6. Where is this love being directed? Who is this specifically?

7. How is faith greatly enlarged? How does love grow? What are these signs of?

8. What kinds of things hinder this enlargement of faith and growth of love?

❖ Day 2

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 again.

9. What is the therefore of verse four referring back to?

10. What does it mean to speak proudly of something? Is this good or bad?

11. Where do Paul and his coworkers in the gospel speak these things?

12. What benefit does speaking of these things to other churches bring to the churches?

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13. What two things are listed in verse four as reasons to speak proudly?

14. How do these two things compare to the two things listed in verse 3 as reasons to give thanks?

15. Why might Paul change the two items being thanked and proudly spoken of when you compare verse three and four? (faith and love vs perseverance and faith).

❖ Day 3

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4 again.

16. What context does the faith and perseverance of the Thessalonians shine through?

17. Are these persecutions temporary? How do you know?

18. What are these persecutions? Is there any description of this affliction in either 1 or 2 Thessalonians that you can find?

19. How does this passage inform the way you give thanks for things beyond your own life among the saints?

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20. How does the gratitude of Paul and his coworkers for other believers in other churches inform the way we should know or interact with other gospel preaching churches?

21. Summarize the main idea of these verses in 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, pray in thankfulness for the faith in and love of Christ you see in believers in and outside of our church. Pray with gratitude for the faith of those you see who endure persecution for their faith. Pray for the persecuted church that they would persevere in their affliction and God would be magnified through their faith. Pray for opportunities to proudly speak of faithful believers for the glory of God and encouragement of others.