

Comfort, Life, and Joy in the Lord in Our Interactions with One Another

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How should we respond to hearing good news about others' faith? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. 1Thessalonians 3:6–10 prepares us for the second serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that that we should respond primarily to the Lord Himself, when we hear good news about others' faith—receiving comfort and life in the Lord, rejoicing before the face of the Lord, and redoubled pleading with the Lord for more opportunity to participate in His work in them.

Thursday, April 14, 2022 ▫ Read 1Thessalonians 3:6–10

Questions from the Scripture text: Who has come to Paul and Silas (v6)? From whom? What has he brought? What two things is this news especially about? Also, how do the Thessalonians remember them? And what do the Thessalonians desire? How much? Who else desires this? What does he call them in v7? What has he and Silas had? How were they comforted? How does v8a describe their relief? How does v8b summarize the news? Whom do they credit for this (v9a)? What emotion does v9b doubly describe? Before Whom is this joy? What does this joy produce (v10)? How often? With what intensity? Praying for what to happen? In order to participate in what for the Thessalonians?

If we read too quickly or carelessly, we will miss just how much this interaction between the apostle and the Thessalonians is really an interaction with the Lord.

Life in the Lord

The data of the good news that Timothy brought back was that the Thessalonians continued to believe and love, and that the great desire to see each other was mutual (v6). But the essence of the news was that since the Thessalonians were standing fast, the apostle knew that their standing was in fact "in the Lord" (v8b). Remember, there had been that horrible thought that his labor had been in vain (end of v5), meaning that there had not been a genuine spiritual work wrought in them. So this was wonderful news that they did stand fast, they were in the Lord, and the apostle's labor had not been in vain!

In fact, despite all that he and Silas were suffering, this news of the Thessalonians' genuine faith made them not only comfortable (v7), but to feel fully "alive"—that their purpose for living was being fulfilled (v8a). Indeed, so alive and so grateful did this news make the apostolic band that it issued in the thanksgiving and rejoicing that occupied the bulk of the first chapter of this letter.

Thanks and Rejoicing unto the Lord

There is, in fact, something that seems almost to trouble the apostle. God has been so good to him that he's unable to pay God back (v9). But this is normal for believers. If they properly understand what is going on in their lives, they will rejoice with great joy before the Lord. If our thankfulness is just for people, and our rejoicing is just before people, then it will not be so very great. But if we see the Lord at work, and carry our hearts in His presence, the thankfulness and joy will be exceedingly great.

Asking Him for More

So, what does one do when he cannot possibly pay God back for what He has already done? Ask for more blessing, of course! The more God did, the more for which they asked Him, so that this praying is described as "night and day" and "exceedingly." They asked not only that both of their desire to see one another would be satisfied (v6) but that this interaction might have the honor of being used by God to bring the Thessalonians' faith to its assuredly perfect end (v10b).

How does "good news" about others' spiritual lives affect you? What might help you be more thankful and joyful about it? When has your thanksgiving resulted in even more eager and earnest praying? What are you praying for?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank you and praise You that the fruit that You give shows that it is You who have given us and others faith and are making us to stand. Forgive us for when how little we think about You or credit You is exposed by the smallness of our thanksgiving and joy. And forgive us for when we are not hungry for more of that grace that does us such good and brings You such glory. Make us to love Your glory and seek to be used to magnify it we ask, through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP100 "All Earth, With Joy" or TPH100A "Shout to the LORD, All Earth"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

1st Thessalonians 3 beginning in verse 6 and going through verse 10. These are God's words.

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.

Therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.

For now, we live if you stand fast in the Lord.

For what thanks can we render to God for you?

For all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God?

Night and day.

Praying exceedingly, that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith.

So far the reading of gods inspired and.

Inerrant word

So Paul and Silas had sent Timothy to the Thessalonians, and Timothy had reminded them that the afflictions are exactly as the Lord had told them and the apostle.

Told them when he had come and preached, and Timothy found that they were standing fast.

And of course, just like they're coming to faith was a gift.

From God, so also they're standing in faith, was something that the Lord was giving them.

So he finishes verse 8 by saying you stand fast in the Lord.

Timothy had come back and said I have good news.

They are clinging to their faith.

They're still fold a lot.

Of love to God and to one another, and even to us.

They greatly desire to see us and remember us fondly.

And you see all of that in.

6 and it is of course, just as Paul and Silas and Timothy.

Although Timothy had been there, greatly desired to see them, as we'll hear about praying the the prayer to that effect in.

The last part.

So this interaction between Paul and the Thessalonians is over the good news and him telling them how much he is encouraged by the good news.

But it's not just interaction between him and the Thessalonians.

The main point is that all of this is in the Lord.

In all of their afflictions, verse 7 and distress they were not.

Suffering primarily because of the persecution that they were receiving, but their greatest affliction.

Their greatest trouble was whether or not the thessalonian believers were continuing to hold to the faith.

This is something that he says in another place.

Where he talks about all of the things that have happened to him.

The the number of times he was stoned, beaten with rods and shipwrecked and adrift in the sea.

And then he says, but above all of those things.

He was distressed over the condition of the churches, the troubles of the churches, and if someone is made to stumble.

But that is the greatest pain he has.

So the Lord comforted him.

By keeping the.

The Thessalonians, even in the midst of their afflictions, verse from verse 3.

And not only was he comforted concerning their faith, verse 7 now the he feels fully alive.

Now we live.

If you stand fast in the Lord is saying that.

Not knowing if they might be buckling under the pressure felt like they were dying.

But when Timothy came back with the news that they were doing well spiritually, that feeling like they were dying went away and they came alive.

How we should grieve.

For those who are perishing and agonize over those who are doing poorly spiritually and how we should rejoice, and as if coming back to life again when we hear that people are doing well and we hear about the Lord's gracious work in them.

This should be one of our desires on the Lord's Day when we gather again as a church, for instance.

That we would hear how the Lord is making others to remain faithful and to be fruitful and to grow, and that we would give them that same joy in reporting the good that the Lord has done for us and in us.

So that's the first part.

Is life in the Lord.

The second part is thanks and rejoicing unto the Lord.

Verse 9 for what?

Thanks can we render to God for you?

For all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God?

And so he said, we're not just comforted and full of life, but we're.

So full of.

Joy when we come before God when we have our.

Private prayer times.

And when I and Silas and Timothy gathered together for prayer and gather the three of us before God, and maybe the entire Corinthian church, think this was written from.

Horns are are gathered before God.

One of the things we are doing is rejoicing over what we've heard about his work among the Thessalonians and in the Thessalonian believers.

And there's all this rejoicing, and the only thing that bothers him now is he has no way to repay.

The Lord.

He says for.

What thanks can we render the God for you?

So great is the joy that he has not just in his heart, but when he comes before that same Lord who has done these things.

So when we receive good news about the work of God and other believers, we're not just supposed to be glad in our hearts.

But we're supposed to take that good news before the Lord.

In our times of worship, even now.

We should be rejoicing over the good that God has done in and for other believers, so there's that life in the Lord.

And then there's that thanks and rejoicing unto the.

Lord or before the Lord.

And then there's asking him for more.

A third part of this, the way this interaction between Paul and the Thessalonians is really an interaction with God himself.

Night and day, praying exceedingly, that we may see your face.

Perhaps a gentle but wise Church member in a church that quit gathering started masking during COVID.

Could just shoot that first part of verse 10 why?

So that we may perfect what is lacking in your faith.

This has given us such joy.

This is what we live for, to be useful by God and other people and other people.

Growth in Christ and the filling out of of.

Their faith with knowledge and love and holiness and understanding and wisdom, and all those things.

We live for that.

We look to God for that.

We rejoice when we hear about it.

And therefore we ask God for more of it.

This is what a believer does, by the way, when he says, what, thanks can I render to garden, we remind ourselves that we could never repay God back, so the believer.

Realizes that God has all goodness in him.

And that the way our relationship works is yes, we.

Live unto him.

And all that we.

Are that's what they wanted to do to go serve, but it's God he must give even.

And so, as we rejoice before him, it encourages us to ask for more of that goodness that made us rejoice.

And so he doesn't say, we realized that you guys are doing fine without us, and we could rejoice over you here.

And we don't really need to go over there and see you and gather.

No, he said now.

We're praying night and day exceedingly, that we may see your face.

It spurs us on to more asking of God for good and especially the good, that we may.

That we may serve him.

So let us learn from this to think about our interactions with our congregation and with other believers for whom we pray and to whom we may have a chance to Minister, to have our interaction primarily with the Lord to.

To be comforted and.

To to feel like we are really living when we hear about good things that God is doing in others and then to take that rejoicing before God himself in our times

with him, and then to turn that rejoicing over into prayer.

That he would do more.

Over which we may then again rejoice.

Let us pray.

Our father in heaven.

We thank you and praise you for the good that you have done in so many.

That gladdens our hearts before you.

We thank you, especially today on her birthday for Miss D.

And your great grace in her, and your great grace and mercy to us through her.

We pray, Lord, that you would be the strength of her heart and her portion forever.

And yet we do.

Please pray that for some time yet her flesh and her heart would not fail and you would spare her to us.

Yet for many more years.

Thank you, oh God, for the grace of the past year, and now give a give her a a new year of your great and merciful working.

We bless your name.

For your marvelous work in Christian and Phoebe's family and in the way that you have not only brought Sidney but now are sustaining Phoebe, we pray that that would continue Lord, that you would give us opportunity to Minister to them.

We thank you, Lord, for.

Giving us so many people, even in our local congregation.

For whom, or on behalf of whom, we can rejoice before you, for the good that you've done in them.

We pray, Lord, that you would be working in us and that you would enable others to be able to rejoice over what they see you do in each of our lives and in our families life.

Help us to have our great and primary interaction with you so that this governs the way we think about and interact with and respond to others.

For Ashley, things in Jesus name.

Hey man.