

August 11, 2024 PM – Pastor Kevin Olivier

1 Thessalonians 1:1-4 – “Thank God for Fruit of Faith”

- A. We ought to be a people who give God thanks.
- B. Paul wrote this blessed epistle to encourage the fledgling church in Thessalonica.

Thank God for the fruit of faith	I. <u>THE AUTHORS AND THEIR SALUTATION</u> II. <u>THANKS FOR FRUITS OF FAITH</u>
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I. THE AUTHORS AND THEIR SALUTATION → **v1**

- A. Both **1 and 2 Thessalonians** record a three-fold authorship.
 - 1. Paul here does not give his title of apostle for at least two reasons.
 - a. Paul had a great familiarity with these brothers and sisters. As we will read later in **Acts** some of these saints may have saved his life!
 - b. His credentials were not necessary as in other epistles such as in **Galatians** when the church there needed a firm rebuke.
 - 2. Silvanus is the Latin or Roman name for Silas which is the Greek rendering.
 - a. After the Jerusalem council in **Acts 15**, Silas was chosen among other men to accompany Paul to deliver the council’s letter to Antioch.¹
 - b. One source writes, “Silas was part of Paul’s company through the second missionary journey at least as far as Corinth... It was probably from Corinth that the two letters from ‘Paul, Silvanus [Silas], and Timothy’ to the church in Thessalonica were written”²

B. Having looked at the three authors, let us focus on their salutation. In **v1** they wrote, “**...to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.**”

- 1. This church had a spiritual union because they were “**in God the Father and [in] the Lord Jesus Christ.**” Using the illustration in **Rom 11**, Like a branch grafted into a olive tree representing a saving relationship with the Triune God.
 - a. These brothers and sisters received the gospel as recorded in **Acts 17:1-9**. Turn there.
 - b. Some of the saints in this church likely saved Paul’s life by getting him away from the angry mob (**Acts 17:6f**).
- 2. The salutation extended a blessing to the church: “**Grace to you and peace.**”
 - a. This is much like a benediction yet at the start of an epistle rather than at the end of it.
 - b. In **Rom 1:7**, Paul used a longer salutation: “**Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**”

¹ See **Acts 15:22-23**.

² Myers, A. C. (1987). In [The Eerdmans Bible dictionary](#) (p. 949). Eerdmans.

II. THANKS FOR FRUITS OF FAITH

- A. Your thanksgiving to God for your brothers and sisters should lead you to pray for them. →**v2**
1. Next time a thought of appreciation for someone in the church comes to mind, make mention of them to God in your prayers.
 2. Thank God for your brothers and sisters, asking Him to help and bless them.
- B. The three authors mentioned the sorts of things he appreciated in the Thessalonians. →**v3**
1. They had a **“work of faith” (v3)** or a work ethic driven by faith.
 - a. According to **Eph 2:8-9**, It is **“by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”**
 - b. But the sort of faith that saves is not a dead or fruitless faith. It will inevitably produce good works. **Eph 2:10** goes on to say, **“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”**
 2. According to v3, the church had a **“labor of love.”**
 - a. Love motivated how they treated one another.
 - b. The Greek implied “toil” or “troublesome labor.”³
 - c. **Heb 6:10-11** says **“For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end”**
 3. The church was marked by a **“steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father”**
 - a. This was demonstrated at the founding of this church.
 - b. They continued in the faith despite the dangers and threats of angry mobs!
- C. The authors wanted them to know the doctrine of election. → **v4 “knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you”**
1. **Jn 6:44** **“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”**
 2. → Trinity Psalter Hymnal #428

³ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). [*Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 385). Logos Research Systems, Inc.