

## "Bound To Give Thanks" - 2 Thes. 1:3-5

by Ted Gatza

### I. Paul was "bound" to give thanks for the Thessalonian brethren. (2 Thes.1:3)

A. Bound - Defined as: Under obligation; debt owed.

B. Paul felt a moral obligation to tell them and others that his prayers were answered and that their lives demonstrated it. 1 Thes. 3:11-13.

i. To increase and abound in love toward each other and all men.

ii. Establish your hearts without blame in holiness.

### II. Paul gloried in them (2 Thes 1:4)

A. Their faith was already well known - 1 Thes 1:8

i. They sounded forth the word of God in Macedonia, Achaia, and in every place they went forth.

### III. Paul gloried of them in other congregations (2Thes. 1:4)

A. This glorification was not to be boastful with arrogance.

B. We can and should boast of things that glorify God. Ps. 44:8

C. This glorification of the Thessalonians was to encourage other congregations to follow their example.

i. Many congregations were surrounded by Pagans and persecutors. They needed much encouragement.

### IV. Reasons for Paul's Glorifying for the Thessalonians

A. Persecutions and afflictions - They endured them.

i. They received the word in much affliction with joy - 1 Thes. 1:6

ii. Acts 17:5-9 - Example of the kind of persecutions they faced.

a) Jealousy from Paul's preaching set the city in an uproar.

b) The house of Jason where Paul stayed was assaulted.

c) The mob dragged Jason and certain brethren before the rulers of the city.

d) They were accused of harboring troublemakers, disobeying Caesar's decrees and saying that Jesus was another king to Caesar.

e) The rulers took security from them and let them go. Bond money.

B. Persecutions develops patience - endurance; steadfastness.

- i. Rom. 5:3-5 - Tribulations increases steadfastness and steadfastness increases hope.
- ii. James 5:11 - Those that endure are called blessed
  - a) The endurance of Job demonstrates that God is full of pity and mercy in the end.

C. Faith and patience support each other. - 2 Thes. 1:4

- i. James 1:3 - When our faith is put to the test, it increases our endurance and steadfastness. (1 Pet. 1:6-7)
  - a) James 1:4 - Let our steadfastness increase to perfection that we may not be lacking in anything.
- ii. Jude 20-21 - Our faith is one that we ourselves also must build up.
  - a) Not only through trials.
  - b) Through spiritual growth and prayers.
    - Study, Prayer and Meditation - Joshua 1:8

D. Revelation describes the patience and steadfastness of the saints - Rev. 14:12

- i. They will keep the commandments of God.
- ii. They will keep the faith of Christ - Jude 3

## **V. Manifest token of the righteous judgment of God - 2 Thes. 1:5**

A. So done, that we may prove worthy of the kingdom of heaven

- i. Remember, our weakness is when we become strong in Christ - 2 Cor. 12:9-10

## **VI. Be counted worthy of the kingdom of Heaven - 2 Thes 1:5**

A. These trials discipline us to be the kind of people to be found worthy by God. - 1 Thes. 2:11-12; Col. 1:9-11

B. To be found worthy to receive the Promise - Heb. 10:36