

# Home Group Helps

## 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5

### *Living in the Light of His Return: The Apostles' Boast*

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> 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; <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> *This is* a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

#### **What kind of church might be worthy of an Apostles' boast?**

**I. A Church that Experiences Grace and Peace (v.1-2)** – Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**II. A Church that Embraces Faith and Love (v.3)** – <sup>3</sup> 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;

**III. A Church that Exercises Perseverance and Hope (v.4)** – <sup>4</sup> 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.

**IV. A Church that Exalts in God's Providence in Suffering (v.5)** – <sup>5</sup> *This is* a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

#### **1. Launching Question(s):**

- What is the biggest boast that you have ever heard from someone?

#### **2. Observation Question(s):**

- Paul commends the Thessalonians for having a faith that has “greatly enlarged” and a love that “grows ever greater” (v.3).
- Why are faith and love so important?
- Why is it important that these two virtues increase in our lives?
- What do you need to do to experience an increase in your practice of faith and love?

#### **3. Interpretation Question(s):**

- Paul states that the suffering being experienced in the Thessalonian church is “a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you may be considered worthy of the

kingdom of God” (v.5). In other words, God is not mad at the church; the suffering demonstrates that they are genuine believers.

- How do our afflictions (v.4) work out for our good and for God’s glory (see James 1:2-4)?
- How might our afflictions strengthen the church?
- How do our afflictions validate our position as genuine believers (see Heb. 12:6-13)?

**4. Reflection Question(s):**

- Isaac Watts penned the following verse of the hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”:

*Forbid It, Lord, That I Should Boast,  
Save In The Death Of Christ My God:  
All The Vain Things That Charm Me Most,  
I Sacrifice Them To His Blood*

- How can you not only sing this verse but also practice it?

**5. Application Question(s):**

- How can you maintain an attitude of perseverance and hope during the trials of the coming week?

March 19<sup>th</sup>, AD 2023