

Three Components of Service

... your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ... 1 Thessalonians 1:3

On the day we first fully trusted the finished work of Christ our Lord, the angels rejoiced, and our reservation was secured for our eternal home in heaven. In His time, God will call us home to dwell with Him forever. As we wait for that day we are instructed to “occupy” in His service. Much of our service for the Lord involves, either directly or indirectly, impacting people for His kingdom.

In today’s text, the Apostle Paul’s commendation to those at the Thessalonian church presents for us the components of a good example to follow in our service for the Lord. The work that they were doing was a work of faith. Before we can do anything for the Lord, our first work is to believe on Him ourselves. He has done all that was necessary to provide salvation for mankind; and now it is for us to exercise true belief in that work. Then, as laborers we are to enter into the Lord’s harvest field. Our labor should not be the result of being forced or coerced, but out of the love we have in our hearts for the One who has loved us with an everlasting love. And when the love of God dwells within us, there should be an outpouring of love for those to whom He would have us to minister. As we labor for Him we are reminded that He calls us not servants, but friends. *Friends!* The fact that the Lord of Lords would refer to us as friends is enough to energize us for His work. There may not always be immediate observable results in the work that we do for Him, but we must be patient in the hope that we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. We persevere in our service knowing that nothing we do for Him is ever in vain. As we wait for His return, we also have the hope that all of our service will help populate God’s kingdom for His glory.

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