

1 Thessalonians

Chapter 1

Introduction

- The apostle Paul is the writer of this encouraging and practical letter to the church of the Thessalonians. vs. 1
- In Paul's day, Thessalonica was a huge city of over 200,000 people. It was the _____ city of the Roman province of Macedonia.
- The birth of this church can be seen in Acts 17:1-10.

Verse 1

1. Paul addresses this group of people (saved Jews and Gentiles) as "*the church of the Thessalonians.*"
2. What made them a church? It was the spiritual _____ they shared. Paul says that they are **in** God the Father and **in** the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 2

- This little verse teaches us three things about our prayer lives:
 - They should include _____. "*we give thanks*" - cf. Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 1:3, 2:7, 3:15, 4:2
 - They should be _____. "*always*" - cf. 5:17
 - They should include _____. "*making mention of you*" - Colossians 4:12

Verse 3

1. This verse gives us in summary form what the Christian life is all about.
2. These three are the key components that are designed to bring fullness in the life of a believer. They represent spiritual maturity.
 - The Christian life **functions** on the basis of _____ (our faith resting in God's Word and applying God's Word to the details of our lives.) 2:13

- The Christian life should be **motivated** by _____ (love for Christ and love for people.) 3:12, 4:9-10
 - The Christian life is **sustained** by _____ (we patiently continue our work of faith and labor of love knowing that Christ could return at any moment.) 4:16-18; cf. Titus 2:13
3. Isn't it interesting that we see all three of these (faith, hope, love) in 1 Corinthians 13:13?
- *“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”*
 - If love doesn't _____ us, all that we do will be hollow and empty.