Pure Doctrine for Holy Living

Issues confronting the new church
- the nature of salvation
- holiness – Christianity in affliction

First lessons for the Church
- James – faith without works is dead
- Galatians – faith with works is dead
- Thessalonians – hope in afflictions

Second missionary journey – Acts 17:1-10 (11-14)
- Ministry in Thessalonica
  - 1 Thessalonians
  - 2 Thessalonians

Outlines
- 2 Thessalonians
  1. Persecutions and tribulations (1)
  2. The coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (2)
  3. Church discipline (3)
- 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
  1. Greeting and invocation (1:1-2)
  2. Pastoral prayer – thanksgiving (1:3-4)
  3. The righteous judgment of God (1:5-10)
  4. Pastoral prayer – intercession (1:11-12)
1. Greeting and Invocation (1:1-2)

Paul, Silvanus, Timothy

Church in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
- Divine institution
- Priority of Jesus Christ

Grace and peace
- Common greeting – uncommon meaning
- Grace – a Christian distinctive
- Peace – a new relationship with God
2. Pastoral Prayer – Thanksgiving (1:3-4)

Thanks to God for growing faith and love

- **Faith**
  - access into Christianity (Galatians)
  - a body of truth received (Romans 10:17)
  - an activating principle (James)
  - growing

- **Love**
  - sums up all Christian virtue (J. Edwards)
  - love of God – priority of God; devotion to God
  - the New Commandment: love one another
  - growing

**The missing virtue**

- Fundamentals of the faith: faith, love, hope
  1 Thessalonians 1:3; 5:8; 1 Corinthians 13:13

- **Hope**
  - 1 Thessalonians 2:16
  - steadfastness is based upon hope
  - obstacles to hope
    - persecutions and afflictions
    - false doctrine
  - hope v. resignation or fatalism
  - steadfastness and faith

Boasting to the church = thanksgiving to God
3. The Righteous Judgment of God (1:5-10)

Evidence of the righteous judgment of God
- Steadfastness and faith in persecutions and afflictions

What is the righteous judgment of God?
- Is it the judgment of God upon sin?
  1 Peter 3:18; Heb. 10:10; 2 Cor 5:21
- Is it judgment of God upon believers?
  1 Peter 4:12-19; Ps. 44; Acts 14:22; 2 Cor. 12:7-10

Worthy of the kingdom of God
- Righteous judgment against sinners
- Righteous judgment ameliorated

The righteous judgment of God
- Repay with affliction
- Grant relief
- When Jesus Christ is revealed from heaven
- The day of wrath
  - flaming fire; inflicting vengeance
  - those who do not know God
  - those who do not obey Christ’s Gospel
- Punishment of eternal destruction
  away from the presence of the Lord and His glory
- The day of glory
  - Christ glorified in His saints
  - Christ marveled at by His saints

The proof of God’s righteous judgment
- The purification of the saints in affliction
- The hope of the saints
4. Pastoral Prayer – Intercession (1:11-12)

To this end we always pray for you
  ▶ Be worthy of God’s calling
  ▶ Resolve for good and every work of faith
  ▶ Glorify the name of the Lord Jesus

Worthy of the Kingdom of God
  ▶ Means – the sovereign power of God
  ▶ Obstacles
    – Persecutions and afflictions
    – False doctrine