

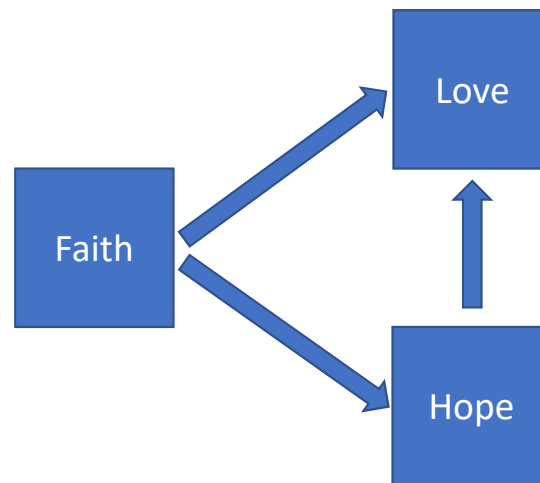
The Joy of Ministry

Lesson 16: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-3:13

April 21, 2019

The Relation between Faith, Hope, and Love

- Faith must be primary 3:5
- Love can exist without hope 3:6
- Hope is not dependent on love



Outline of the Letter

- 1:1-4 Introduction
- 1:5-3:13 Gospel ministry (**Faith**)
 - 1:5-10 The gospel among the Thessalonians
 - 2:1-16 Gospel ministry by Paul
 - 2:17-3:13 Mutual love in the gospel
- 4:1-5:22 Godly living (Love and Hope)
 - 4:1-12 Living to please God (**Love**)
 - 4:1-8 Love for God: Sanctification
 - 4:9-12 Love for believers
 - 4:13-5:11 The coming of the Lord (**Hope**)
 - 4:13-18 The coming of the Lord for believers
 - 5:1-11 The day of the Lord for unbelievers
 - 5:12-22 Exhortations (**Love**)
- 5:23-28 Conclusion

Lesson Outline

- 1:5-3:13 Gospel ministry (**Faith**)
 - 1:5-10 *The gospel among the Thessalonians*
 - 2:1-16 Gospel ministry by Paul
 - 2:1-6 The gospel in word
 - 2:7-12 The gospel in deed
 - 2:13-16 Results of gospel ministry
 - 2:17-3:13 Mutual love in the gospel
 - 2:17-3:5 Motivation for the sending of Timothy
 - 3:6-13 Timothy's report and Paul's response

1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

¹For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to **speak** to you the **gospel** of God amid much opposition. ³For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the **gospel**, so we **speak**, not as pleasing men, **but** God who examines our hearts. ⁵For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness— ⁶nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

- Boldness
 - To speak the gospel
 - Amid much opposition
- The gospel message is not
 - Error, impurity, deceit (2:3)
 - Flattering men (2:4, 5)
 - For greed (2:5)
 - Glory from men (2:6)
- The gospel message is
 - Speaking to pleasing God (2:4)

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

⁷But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for **her own children**. ⁸Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the **gospel** of God **but** also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

⁹For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the **gospel** of God. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and *so is* God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; ¹¹just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would his own children*, ¹²so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

- Characteristics of gospel ministry
 - Affection
 - Imparting the gospel
 - Imparting one's life
 - Not burdensome to others
 - Devout
 - Upright
 - Blameless
 - Exhorting
 - Encouraging
 - Imploring

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

¹³For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not as the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. ¹⁴For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews, ¹⁵who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, ¹⁶hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

- The word of God works in those who believe
- Imitation in suffering
- Charges against the Jews
 - Killed the Lord Jesus
 - Killed the prophets
 - Drove believers out
 - Not pleasing to God
 - Hostile to all men
 - Hinder the gospel going to the Gentiles

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

¹⁷But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. ¹⁸For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us. ¹⁹For who is our hope or **joy** or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? ²⁰For you are our glory and **joy**.

- External, but not internal, separation
- They all wanted to see the Thessalonians again
- We are to glory and rejoice in other believers

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

¹Therefore when we could **endure it no longer**, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone, ²and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith, ³so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. ⁴For indeed when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know. ⁵For this reason, when I could **endure it no longer**, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.

- Timothy's mission
 - Strengthen their faith (3:2)
 - Encourage their faith (3:2)
 - Find out about their faith (3:5)
- The reality of afflictions
 - We are destined for them
 - They are not to disturb us
 - Faith is needed to face them

1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

⁶But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your **faith** and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you, ⁷for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your **faith**; ⁸for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord. ⁹For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the **joy** with which we **rejoice** before our God on your account, ¹⁰as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your **faith**?

- Timothy's report
 - Faith
 - Love
 - Kind thoughts of them
 - Longing to see them
- Faith in God can comfort others
- We should rejoice in other believers
- Prayer for mature faith

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

¹¹Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you; ¹²and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you; ¹³so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

- Requests
 - That they could see them again
 - That their love would increase and abound
 - For one another
 - For all
- Purpose
 - Strengthen their hearts
 - Blameless in holiness at Jesus' coming

Summary

- Our boldness to speak the gospel is only from God
- We need to be willing not only to share the gospel, but our own lives out of love
- God's word works in those who believe
- We should rejoice in, and thank God for, other believers
- We are not to be disturbed by afflictions