

**Worthy of the Kingdom**

2 Thess. 1:1-5

**1. They were \_\_\_\_\_ believers. (vv. 1-2)**

Paul's simple greeting identifies this as a church of truly \_\_\_\_\_ people.

No other religion speaks of adherents being \_\_\_\_\_ their god.

Out of that living union with God and Christ flows \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. They were \_\_\_\_\_ in faith. (v. 3a)**

But he knew it wasn't his efforts that caused their growth in faith, it was \_\_\_\_\_ blessing and grace.

The Thessalonians' faith had grown not \_\_\_\_\_ the persecution they were experiencing, but \_\_\_\_\_ of it.

**3. They were \_\_\_\_\_ in love. (v. 3b)**

Paul is equally obligated to give \_\_\_\_\_ for their growing love.

This love is not a selfish romantic love, or a fuzzy sentimentality, or an emotional feeling, but an eager, \_\_\_\_\_ service that comes from God and marks all true believers.

**4. They were \_\_\_\_\_ in hope. (v. 4)**

Paul and his companions spoke \_\_\_\_\_ of the Thessalonians.

They were too \_\_\_\_\_ to speak in this way of themselves, so Paul did it for them.

Perseverance is not resigned, stoic acquiescence but patient, courageous \_\_\_\_\_ of trouble.

**5. They were willing to \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 5)**

But in referring to "the righteous judgment of God," Paul shifts his gaze to God's future \_\_\_\_\_.

But because God disciplines every child of His we know that our suffering is loving \_\_\_\_\_ aimed at teaching us what we need to know and building the strength we will need to serve God.

## Calvary Connection Group

Discussion Questions for the week of Jan. 22, 2023

### Getting to Know Me

- What biblical character do you relate to most ? Why?
  
- If you could safely pet any wild animal, which one would it be? Why?

### Into the Bible

- What one thing stood out to you in this week's sermon as something important to understand and apply?
  
- Prepositions are often overlooked, but sometimes they are very important. What does it mean that we are "*in* God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ?" Hint: See 2 Pet. 2:4; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 4:13; 1 John 3:2.
  
- Paul was thankful for the growing faith, endurance (hope), and love shown by the Thessalonians. Read 1 Cor. 13:13 and 1 Thess. 1:2-4. Why are these three qualities so important and prominent in the New Testament and why is love the greatest of the three? (Hint: Read Heb. 11:1, 6; Rom. 8:24-25; 1 John 3:1-3; 4:7-8)
  
- How does enduring hardships prove that we are sons of God? Doesn't everyone suffer hardships? Is God disciplining non-believers through their hardships?

### Application

- How have you experienced the discipline of God in your life? What was the lesson God was trying to teach you?
  
- Paul was proud of the faith, hope, and love shown by the Thessalonians. Are you proud of someone you know who has grown as a Christian in the last few years? Share the story if you can without violating confidence.