Perseverance

Ken Chapman · 2 Thessalonians 1:3–5

INTRODUCTION

- I'm confident that biblical writers didn't do that. That when the apostle Paul handed out compliments, that they weren't false compliments, and they weren't hollow.
- They were new Christians, probably just a year old in their faith, and they had obeyed the gospel in less than ideal circumstances.
- I want us to use these Thessalonian Christians as an example for us in how that we can persevere, of how we can be faithful in the midst of difficult circumstances.

1 None of Those Excuses Are Offered

Acts 17

- Excuses to why we don't do something that we ought to do, or maybe excuses why we do something that we ought not to do in our lives.
- If somebody could offer excuses, it could be these Thessalonians.
- Paul and Silas left for fear of their lives.
- But none of those excuses are offered. So Paul writes to them again shortly after their conversion and commends them. Commends them for their perseverance.

2 Your Faith Grows Exceedingly

2 Thessalonians 1:3; Matthew 8:23–27

- Why did they persevere in the midst of difficult circumstances and surroundings? Because not just they had faith, but their faith grew.
- Not just enough to have faith. Faith has to grow. Or we won't persevere.
- Faith needs to grow. Because the need for our faith is going to grow.
- We believe not just in his existence, but we believe in him.
- But he said to them, Why are you fearful, O you of little faith? Then he arose and rebuked the winds and sea, and there was a great calm.
- The lesson of that is they only did that because their faith grew. And like the Thessalonians, it grew exceedingly.

3 Your Love Abounds Toward Each Other

2 Thessalonians 1:3–4

- Your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other.
- The idea of abounds is it goes over and above.
- We're not going to finish this race unless our faith grows and unless our love abounds, unless our love grows.

- They were able to make it through their difficult circumstances, the challenges that they had, because they had an abounding love for one another.
- It's to be a social relationship that we're to seek out others of like precious faith, as Peter would say.
- So God said, find those people and help those people, and they'll help you.

4 Hope Can Get You Through

1 Thessalonians 1:3

- Faith, their growing faith, love, their abounding love, and their hope. Hope can get you through so much.
- Seeing through the darkness, seeing through the difficulties and the struggles, and seeing to that better existence is the best thing that can cause us to persevere.
- And God gives us heaven not just as that final reward. But he gives us heaven as a means to persevere.
- As bad as this world is, because there's heaven, this isn't so bad.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Can you do it? Can you persevere? No matter what life, the world, Satan throws at you.**

MY NOTES