

ROOTED IN CHRIST'S FOUNDATION

SERIES QUESTION: Why me?

SERIES THEME: To discover, understand, and be confident in our God-given purpose for life

TODAY'S THEME: My God-given purpose is rooted in Christ's foundation of faith, love, and hope

TODAY'S TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

"We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope..." -- v.3

I. OUR WORK PRODUCED BY FAITH

A. The Believer's _____

- > We have faith because of the _____
 - 1 Cor. 15:2
 - The good news of Christ's death and resurrection is the power to save

- > We have faith because of the _____
 - 2 Cor. 1:21-22
 - Both the gospel and the Holy Spirit bring a deep steadfast conviction

- > Our faith is more than intellectual assent
 - Gal.5:6b
 - A living trust expressed in love

B. The Believer's _____

"...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." -- Jas. 2:17

- > Faith should inspire and produce work and action

QUESTION → What is the believer's faith-produced work?

- > To _____
 - We are called to an "obedience that comes from faith"
 - Romans 1:5; 16:26
 - If my faith isn't producing obedient action, I should recommit my faith

- > To _____
 - Paul's faith was the example for the Thessalonian church
 - We are to imitate Christ and those who are following the Lord

"Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ."

- 1 Cor.11:1; Eph. 5:1; 1 Tim. 4:12

II. OUR LABOUR PROMPTED BY LOVE

A. A Change Of _____

- > Paul, Silas, and Timothy needed God's love to prompt their mission
 - Thessalonica back story → Acts 17:1-10, 13-14

B. _____ Our Labour

- > We need a heart change in order to share our faith
 - My heart needs to break for the things that break God's heart

- > He remembers when we _____ in love!
 - Hebrews 6:10

III. OUR ENDURANCE INSPIRED BY HOPE

A. Our Hope Is _____ Assurance

QUESTION → Why do people of faith endure?

- > Hope is _____ on God's love
 - Romans 5:5
 - It is not unfounded optimism, but confident expectation

- > Hope is an _____ in a stormy life
 - Hebrews 6:18-20
 - It is set in eternity and guaranteed by Christ

- > Hope _____ faith and love
 - Colossians 1:5
 - Faith, hope and love all perpetuate one another

B. We Have The Hope Of _____
> Jesus is coming back for us!
- He is our hope

CONCLUSION: Let faith arise in you, allow love to be renewed in your life, and be inspired by hope today!

LIFEGROUP STUDY QUESTIONS:

OPENING QUESTION: What school team or group did you belong to (or want to belong to) as a kid?

READ Acts 17:1-9.

- > What can you know about the Thessalonian church from Paul's experiences there?

- > Have you ever experienced positive or negative reactions like those of Paul and his friends while sharing YOUR faith?

READ 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.

- > What do you think convinced Paul that the Thessalonians were indeed chosen by God?

- > How did they first become imitators of, and then models for, the faith (v.6-10)? What does this tell us about their growth in Christ?

- > In an age without radio, television or Twitter, how do you suppose their faith became so legendary?

- > What kind of "model" are you in matters of faith:
 - Still on the drawing board?
 - A work in progress?
 - Secured in a private collection?
 - On display at the National Museum?

- > Which of the qualities in verse 3 do you most wish to see developed in your life now? How can the group help?

PRAY for any needs in your group, and encourage one another in their faith for Christ, in their love for God and others, and in their future hope.