***Celebrating Our 6th Anniversary***

**Why Hope Bible Fellowship Is Such A Special Place!**

**I Thessalonians 1:1-3**

According to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it was during Paul’s ***2nd*** missionary journey that he visited Thessalonica and began to proclaim the Gospel to all that would listen.

While no church is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ church, some churches are a lot closer to the **N.T.** ideal than others, and certainlythe church at Thessalonica falls into that category.

These ***3*** things, ***“work of faith,” “labor of love,”***and***“steadfastness of hope”***reflect what is often referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christian virtues.

What Paul emphasized here was not the mere existence of faith, love and hope - but rather, the things that are produced as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of faith, love and hope.

**“**We remember before our God and Father ***your work produced by faith***, ***your labor prompted by love***, and ***your endurance inspired by hope*** in our Lord Jesus Christ.**”**

***(v 3 - NIV)***

**I. Paul Joyfully Celebrated The Of The Thessalonians** *(v 3a)*

In the Greek, the root word for ***“faith”*** is a word that literally means “to be persuaded that something is \_\_\_\_\_\_, and then to \_\_\_\_\_\_ in it.”

The emphasis isn’t so much on their faith itself as much as it is on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that were produced as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of their faith.

More than likely, the ‘good works’ that Paul was referring to was the Thessalonian’s good work of reaching their world for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_! ***(v 8)***

**II. Paul Joyfully Celebrated The Of The Thessalonians** *(v 3b)*

Paul was talking about a deep caring love, the kind of love that counts no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as being too great or too demanding.

These ***1st*** Century Christians \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ together in an effort to take the Gospel to a disbelieving, antagonistic, and often violent world!

 **II Corinthians 5:20**

Love in the life of a Christian is not a mere \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it’s a driving, compelling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**III. Paul Joyfully Celebrated The Of The Thessalonians** *(v 3c)*

Hope is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in what God said He would do in the future.

Notice that it was this kind of hope that Paul said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a remarkable level of endurance in the lives of the Thessalonians.

As Christians, our confidence in what God is going to do in the future *should* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cause us to press on in our efforts to reach our world for Christ.

**Conclusion:**

***As we look back over these past 6 years, we can humbly say:***

**“To God be the glory great things He has done!”**

Don Jennings, II

Hope Bible Fellowship

April 30, 2023