

# Anticipation

## Living In Light Of Eternity

### Start With Gratitude

#### 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

Sermon Notes | Jeff Randleman | January 12, 2025

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*We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 (ESV)

#### **Paul's Concerns:**

- Their faith - Was it genuine?
- His reputation - Was it a hindrance?

#### **Paul's Greeting:**

- The Authors: Paul, Silas, Timothy
- The Recipients: The Thessalonians
- The Greeting: Grace and peace

#### **How Paul Expressed Gratitude:**

- By mentioning them in his prayers

#### **When Paul Expressed Gratitude:**

- In remembering their work of faith
- In remembering their labor of love
- In remembering their steadfastness of hope

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Discussion Questions | Jeff Randleman | January 12, 2025

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Matters for Reflection and Discussion:

1. Why do you think Paul was concerned about the genuineness of the Thessalonians' faith, and how can we discern the authenticity of our own faith today?
2. How might Paul's reputation impact the church in Thessalonica? How can personal history affect our witness for Christ?
3. Why do you think Paul included Silas and Timothy in his introduction, and what does this teach us about the value of teamwork in ministry?
4. What does it mean to be "in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ," and how does this identity shape our lives as believers?
5. Why are "grace" and "peace" central to Paul's greeting, and how do they reflect the essence of the gospel message?
6. How does Paul's commitment to praying for the Thessalonians challenge us to incorporate prayer into our relationships with others in the church?
7. What are some examples of how a genuine "work of faith" might be evident in a believer's life today?
8. How does "labor of love" differ from simply helping others, and how can we cultivate a love that is sacrificial and Christlike?
9. How does hope in Christ's return help us endure trials, and how can we encourage others to remain steadfast in their hope?
10. Are you thankful for the church? Not just our church, but the church as a global community? Describe why this is so important.