

Paul & Co's Reason For Giving Thanks – A Healthy Church (1 Thess 1: 1-3)

- This is one of the first letters Paul wrote to one of the first churches he planted
- Written about AD51; church planted on his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 16)
- Thessalonica: 1 of 2 cities in Macedonia, capital town in a Roman province
- Church in Thessalonica could be considered a model church - free from heresy
- Paul: concerned for the church as a young church from the attacks of the Jews

I. Paul Is Grateful for Her Divine Commission (vs. 1a)

- Paul's address to the church of Thessalonica: the called out ones
- The church: culmination of our Lord's life, death, resurrection & ascension
- Church of Thessalonica was called out by God, commissioned to serve Him

II. Paul Is Grateful for Her Vital Membership vs. 1b-2

“To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father & the Lord Jesus Christ”

- They were in God the Father & the Lord Jesus Christ – the very source of life
- They received “grace & peace” they were born again, baptized into the body
- For this reason says Paul vs. 2 “We give thanks to God always for you all”
- He & his fellow missionaries gave thanks for some key reasons:
 - 1) Verse 2b “making mention of you in prayer”
 - 2) Verse 3 “remembering you without ceasing”
 - 3) Verse 4 “knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God”
- Paul/ missionaries/ showed gratitude by praying continually for the church

III. Paul's Gratitude for Her Godly Motivation vs. 3

- Their motives for serving God were clear & evident to all who served them
- Their lives were marked by the gifts of God: clear evidence of working faith
- Marked by: vs 3. **your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ**