

Thesis Statement: The gospel (good news) transforms us into **living proof of Christ's power** through **active faith, selfless love, and unshakable hope**. fueled/compelled by the **joy and gratitude** of being **rescued from God's wrath and possessing guaranteed certainty of the return of Christ**.

Context for the book

1 Thessalonians ground the letter *IN* the **hope of Christ's return**. In vs. 3 he mentions "*steadfastness of HOPE IN Jesus Christ.*" Then in verse 10, he clarifies this **hope** is in Jesus' return— "*and wait for His Son from heaven... who delivers us from the wrath to come.*"

- The phrase *day of the LORD* is more prominent here than in any other NT book.
- The Thessalonians have questions: *When will Jesus return? How will they know? What happens to those who have died?*
- Paul addresses these concerns in every chapter (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13–18; 5:1–11), reassuring them that Christ's return should *continue* to serve as their anchor of hope, and not to fear.
- Contemplating Christ's return correctly should always reflect gratitude, hope, peace, and joyful anticipation resulting in enthusiastic sharing of the gospel in word and action, while waiting for the certainty of CHRIST triumphant and glorious return.

PAUL'S GRATITUDE FOR THEIR HOPE-FUELED VIRTUES (v. 2–3); Paul's gratitude focuses on three virtues and connects to Christ work and hope in His return.

1. **WORK OF FAITH:** "work" = **tangible action**. Their faith was active = *working* because they **BELIEVED Jesus**, "*who delivers us from the wrath to come*" (v. 10),
 - This hope drove them to turn from idols to serve the living God (v. 9).
 - Their faith wasn't mere intellectual agreement, it produced **costly obedience**,
 - Their WORK fueled/compelled by the **certainty of Christ's victory = FAITH**.

Application: Does hope in Christ's return fuel your actions/work?

2. **LABOR OF LOVE:** "Labor" = exhausting, sacrificial effort.
 - Their love wasn't casual, nor convenient; it is a profound commitment of **costly service** to God and others.
 - This love compelled the THESS to embrace the gospel "*with the joy of the Holy Spirit*" **despite affliction** (v6),
 - They became "*an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.*" Sharing the Gospel with joy/gratitude.

Application: Is your labor fueled or compelled by LOVE?

3. **STEADFASTNESS OF HOPE:** "Steadfastness" = **endurance under pressure**.
 - Their **certainty of Jesus' return** gave them the ability to endure under pressure, transforming **trials into purpose**.
 - Their **HOPE** was the foundation for their ability to **REMAIN** in their **WORK** and **LABOR with JOY!**
 - Their steadfastness, **was inseparable from joy**. Despite "*much affliction*"

Application: Does hope/certainty in effectiveness of Christ's work for you and certainty of his Kingship fuel your **steadfastness**?

PAUL'S CONFIDENCE THAT THE THESS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY GOD. (v. 4–10)

- **Imitation of Christ** (v. 6): Their faith so certain they imitated **Jesus**.
- **A Model for Others** (v. 7–8): Their faith "*sounded forth*" across regions, they were **convinced** they deserved wrath and got grace, and **certain** Christ was KING!
- **Turning from Idols** (v. 9): They turn from the things they used to love to the one who loves them!
- **Waiting for Jesus** (v. 10): Their hope centered on Jesus' return, they labored in love, worked in faith, and kept going joyfully!

Application: Does your hope in Christ's return compel you to be living proof of the gospel?

Conclusion Let us be compelled/fueled by this truth and hope—turning from idols, imitating Jesus, and waiting with joy. May we **live** and **proclaim** Jesus Christ as King; Labor in LOVE, Work in FAITH, remain Steadfast in HOPE, and that He would shine through us in such a way, our **FAITH sounds forth!** (I John 3:2,3)