

# Faith-Based Plan For Novices (II)

1-2 Thessalonians

# NT: no such thing as Christian without problems

- Also true of churches
- The more immature the church, the more frequent and serious the problems
- Much of NT designed to correct problems

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” – 2 Co.3:18

# I. Learning In School Of Hard Knocks

# 1 Th.2:1-2, persecution of preachers

- Might have discouraged some.
- Shows importance of the message –
  - Not even death threats could stop the gospel. 2 Tim.3:10-12...
  - Encouraged Thessalonians to look into it.

# 1 Th.2:14-16, persecution of Thessalonians

- Gospel threatens society: condemns sins ('judgmental'); demands change
  - Ac.17:6
- US not far behind
- 14-16, Thessalonians suffered like saints in Judea – at hands of Jews

# 1 Th.2:17-20, divide and conquer

Separate soldiers from generals

- **Separated:** make an orphan of; separate, deprive.
  - Satan wanted to sever their connection with Paul & Word (Lk.8:12-14).
- **Stalled:** stop someone. Ga.5:7.
  - 19-20, out of sight, not out of mind.
  - 3:5-7, did not work.

# 1 Th.4:3-8, call of the wild

Past wants to regain control. 1 Pt.4:3-4

- God's call: sanctification / holiness, 3, 4, 7
- Roman morals
- Greek morals
  - Be different - 1 Th.5:23

# 1 Th.4:13-18, death

Are the dead back to 'no hope, no God'?

- No – they will rise first.
- Forever with Him.



1 Th.5:12-13, trivial pursuit?

Submission to elders

14: grow in concern for others. Christians are not self-centered.

2 Th.3:6-15, church discipline – tough love.

I. Learning In School Of Hard Knocks

## II. Lessons From Thessalonica

Faith alone is not an option

Saving faith is not 'directionally challenged'

Faithfulness is dedicated and dependable

Faith endures hard times

**Help ourselves by helping others**

- 1 Th.3:12, love one another
- 1 Th.4:9-10, keep growing

Faith alone is not an option

Saving faith is not 'directionally challenged'

Faithfulness is dedicated and dependable

Faith endures hard times

Help Yourself by helping others

**Saving faith grows**

- Luke 17:1, woe
- Luke 17:2, drown
- Luke 17:3-4, forgive
- Luke 17:5, response

**DO MORE;  
DO BETTER**

# Saving faith grows. How?

- Mt.6:33, seek first things first
- Mt.18:6, do not make others sin
- Mt.22:37, love with all heart
- Lk.9:23, self-denial, cross, follow
- Jn.4:23-24, emphasis on what we give
- 1 Co.4:2, stewardship. Gn.24. Paul
- 1 Co.15:58, synonyms of 'faithfulness'
- Ep.5:16, time management
- Col.3:1-2, seek above. Mt.17:5 [Lk.9:35]

S “I got nothing out of worship”??

**Job** (1:20)?

**David** (2 Sm.12:20)?

**Visitor** (1 Co.14:24-25)?

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# Conclusion

- “I was born good but had grown progressively worse every year”
  - Faith is a work in the other direction
  - 1 Th.3:10, *perfect what is lacking...*
- Rv.2:10

# Faith-Based Plan For ~~Novices~~ all Christians

1-2 Thessalonians