

ENCOURAGEMENT IN DIFFICULT TIMES
GENUINE FAITH THAT BRINGS GLORY TO GOD AND BLESSES HIS PEOPLE
2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

I. INCREASING FAITH IN CHRIST BRINGS ABOUT CONTINUAL THANKFULNESS

TO GOD: The Thessalonians greatly increasing faith in Christ, brought about a greater love for each other, and thus **obliged Paul, and his companions to continually thank God (3)**

A. Their greatly increased faith (trust) in Jesus and love for each other obliged Paul and his companions to continually thank God (3a)

B. Their greatly increasing faith manifest in their love for each other super abounding (3b)

II. ENDURING FAITH IN CHRIST BLESSES AND ENCOURAGES OTHERS TO TRUST

GOD: Paul and his companions therefore boasted of the Thessalonians faith and perseverance among the churches; *'Look at these Thessalonians, you know their persecutions and afflictions they endure, yet their perseverance and faith abounds in Christ, praise God!'* **(4)**

A. Their genuine faith the midst of their persecutions and afflictions brought about perseverance which was worthy of Paul's boasting to the churches (4)

B. Their increasing faith in Jesus and perseverance was thus an encouragement and blessing for believers then and us now!!!! (4b)