

Today's Scripture Text: **1 Thess 3:11-13**

Sow Christ's Love - Reap Christ's Character

1. Two Requests

(a) Request #1

“That he [Paul] does this in such a matter-of-fact way, and without explanation or argumentation; is at the same time sure evidence that he must have previously instructed them not only on the saving work of Christ, but also on *who* the divine Saviour actually was” **Gordon Fee The First and Second Letter to the Thessalonians**, p.130-131

APPLICATION

1. **DONT STOP**
2. **STOP**
3. **START**
4. **BELIEVE!**

“The prayer...expresses not merely a faint wish but a *confident prayer* that has a strong expectation of fulfillment” **Jeffrey Weima 1-2 Thessalonians** p.238

5. **FACE TO FACE IS BEST**

(b) Request #2

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:34-35**

APPLICATION

1. **Deep Love Expresses Gratitude for Others.**

For what **thanksgiving** can we return to God **for you**, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God? **1Thessalonians 3:9**

2. **Deep Love Expresses Affection for Others.**

Being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

1Thessalonians 2:8

3. **Deep Love Finds Joy in Believers.**

For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For ***you are our glory and joy.*** **1Thessalonians 2:19-20**

2. One Result

We make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. **2Corinthians 5:9-10**

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. **1John 3:2-3**