

TBC SERMON NOTES & STUDY

November 14, 2021 – Tim Moschera, Pastoral Assistant

Audio file: www.timberlakebaptist.org – (Or on Facebook & YouTube)

Paul's Thanksgiving as a Pattern for Our Priorities

1 Thessalonians 1:2-7

Sermon Text:

1 Thessalonians 1:2-7 (NASB)

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers; ³ constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, brethren beloved by God, *His* choice of you; ⁵ for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

Sermon Outline:

3 Lessons from Paul's Thanksgiving to Shape Our Priorities

Lesson 1: The Priority of Thanksgiving (v. 2)

Lesson 2: The Priority of Grace-Motivated Fruitfulness (v. 3)

- a. Faith-Motivated Work**
- b. Love-Motivated Labor**
- c. Hope-Motivated Perseverance**

Lesson 3: The Priority of Evidences of Election (vv. 4–7)

Shepherding Group Discussion:

1. How are our prayers a window into our priorities?
2. How are Paul's priorities in prayer a model for us in the area of mind renewal?
3. Where do we see the priority of thanksgiving evident in the life of the Apostle Paul?
4. Explain how an awareness of God's sovereign control over all of life fuels thanksgiving in the life of a believer.
5. What is the effect on our thanksgiving in prayer when we focus mainly on problems and shortcomings in the lives of others?
6. Are you thankful to God for the grace-motivated fruitfulness you see in others? Why or why not?
7. How does the promise of Christ's second coming give us hope to endure persecution as believers?
8. What are you prioritizing in the use of your time, money, and energies? How do these align with the priorities of Paul as a biblical model?
9. What do our concerns and burdens tell us about our priorities?
10. When you compare your pattern of thanksgiving to the model provided to us in Scripture through Paul, where do your priorities need to change?