

(1 Thessalonians 1:1) Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The “church” in Thessalonica was founded by Paul with the help of Silas and Timothy (Acts 17) around 50ad during Paul’s second missionary journey.

Many believe that these letters were the first of Paul’s letters and writings. By “these letters” I mean both the 1st and 2nd letters. The 1st letter was written about 52-53AD and the 2nd shortly thereafter; Scholars believe that these may have been the first writings of what would become the New Testament;

Thessalonica is in the Roman province of Macedonia on the opposite shore of the Aegean Sea where Lydian province was located.

Note: 1) Paul didn’t append his name with “an apostle or a bondservant” because of the high regard the church had of him;
2) Silvanus is the same as Silas, first mentioned in Acts 15 as a leader and prophet of the Jerusalem church. 3) Timothy is first mentioned in Acts 16. His mom was Jewish, his father was Greek; Paul met him in Lystra had Timothy accompany him to Macedonia. Timothy is often mentioned in the writings of Paul (about 24 times).

(1 Thessalonians 1:2) We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, (3) remembering without ceasing your **work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, (4) knowing, beloved brethren, **your election by God**.

Mention: ([Rom 1:9](#), [Eph 1:16](#), [Phm 1:4](#)). Not just Paul but all three for whom Paul writes

One commentator *Hiebert) notes that this is the first time that Paul used his to-be-famous trio of “faith, hope and love”;

[1 Corinthians 13:13](#) And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

But the focus is not on these 3 gifts and/or fruit of the Spirit, but rather on what they produce:

- **Faith** produces good **works** - as is the nature of true faith.
- Their **love** produces **labor**. This is strange choice of words because “Labor” in this context is “laborious”, that is, when we love with an “agape” love, it will invariably come with hardships and difficulties

[Hebrews 6:10](#) For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

- **Hope** produced **patience**, which is the long-suffering *endurance* needed to not only survive hard times, but to triumph through them.

your election by God.

ek-log-ay'

From [G1586](#); (divine) *selection* (abstractly or concretely): - chosen, election.