**R762 Rumination for 15 Sept., 2019** By K.C. Ung

The **T**heme: **FAITH, Hope and Love** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *And now abide* ***faith, hope, love****, these three; but the greatest of these is love.* I Cor. 13:13, NKJV

The **T**hots:

**Faith, Hope and Love…**

1. **Commended to the Church at Corinth I Cor. 13:13**
2. The **C**omponents: *now abide* ***faith****,* ***hope****,* ***love****, these three*
3. The **C**hiefest: *but the greatest of these is love*
4. The **C**ritique: *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love,*

*I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal*. I Cor. 13:1

1. **Complimented of the Church in Thessalonica. I Thes. 1:2, 3**
2. The **C**haracter of the Church:
3. The **C**ompliments*: We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;*

*Remembering without ceasing your work of* ***faith****, and labour of* ***love****, and patience of* ***hope*** *in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.*

1. Paul’s **C**onfidence in their **C**ontinuation*: Remembering without ceasing…*
2. ***your work of******faith****,*
* *For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia,*

*but also in every place* ***your faith*** *to God-ward is spread abroad;*

*so that we need not to speak any thing.* I Thes. 1:8

* *Timothy has come to us… and brought us good news of* ***your faith******and love****…* I Thes. 3:6, NKJV
1. ***and labour of******love****,*

*But as touching brotherly* ***love*** *ye need not that I write unto you:*

*for ye yourselves are taught of God to* ***love*** *one another.* I Thes. 4:9

1. ***and patience of******hope***

*For what is our* ***hope****, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence*

*of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy.* I Thes. 2:19, 20

*But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.* I Thes. 5:1

1. The **C**onduct of the **C**hurch: I Thes. 5:8

*But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of* ***faith*** *and* ***love****;*

*and for an helmet, the* ***hope*** *of salvation.*

1. **The Complaint against the Church in Ephesus. Rev. 2:2**
2. The **M**issing **E**lements in their Church ct. the Church in Thessalonica. See #B above.

*I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience.* Rev. 2:2 ct. I Thes. 1:3

1. They had *Works*, but no **Faith**;
2. They had *Labour*, but no **Love**;
3. They had *Patience*, but no **Hope**.
4. Their **M**islaid **E**xperience - Rev. 2:4

*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.*

1. The **M**issive to **R**epent and **R**eturn Rev. 2:5

***R****emember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and* ***R****epent, and do the first works;*

*or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will* ***R****emove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou* ***R****epent.*

1. **in the Commemoration at the Lord’s Supper. I** **Cor. 11:24-25**

As we **B**reak the **B**read and **D**rink of the Cup, let us **D**emonstrate…

1. **Our Faith** in the **P**romised **P**resence of the Lord to keep His **P**recept –
2. *This do in remembrance of Me.*
3. *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them.* Mt. 18:20
4. **Our Love** of the **P**re-eminence and **P**rominence of the Lord to **R**emember and **R**evere Him. Col. 1:18
5. *He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead;*

*that in all things He might have the preeminence.*

1. *Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.* I Cor. 11:24, 25

*After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying,*

*This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.*

1. **Our Hope** in the **P**romised **R**eturn of the Lord to **R**epeat: I Cor. 11:26
2. *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*
3. *“Even so, Come, Lord Jesus*.” Rev. 22:20

*O God of grace, in Jesus’ name Increase my faith, up build my hope,*

*My heart with* *zea*l *in flame Send Thou Thy Spirit from above*

 *Till* ***faith*** *and* ***hope*** *are lost in* ***love.*** Neal A. McAula

**REFLLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R762**

1. The Church in Thessalonica was well-complimented and -commended by Paul.

He wrote to them personally to say so – I Thes. 1:2, 3

*We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.*

Though Paul was in prison at that time, he still received some outside news and what a comfort it was for him to hear the progress of this church who at one time were “pagans” but had turned to the Lord from idols.

Certainly Paul could not ask for better news than what he heard had filtered through his prison doors. He wrote: (I Thes. 1:8-10)

*For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. For they themselves shew of us…how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

Their faith in God was not only well-spoken of in the neighbouring regions but also their obedience to the commission of the Lord to spread the good news of salvation to all around them. Theirs was not a faith in works but the Spirit’s work of faith in their lives to bring about such radical changes in them to be what they were then. Apparently what inspired them to such zeal for the Lord was not only their love for lost souls but a living hope in the coming of their Lord. Their labour of love for Him led them to toil until they were weary – such was their passionate love for their Lord resulting in their love for lost souls for whom their Lord had sacrificed His life. While their love was passionate, their hope in the Lord’s return was patient – *patience of hope*.

With regard to these three-fold character of the church – *their work of faith, labour of love and patience of hope* – which was so manifestly evident to all around, Paul could even say of each of them that he and the apostles with him need not even have to mention them – (I Thes. 1:8)

*For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad;* ***so that we need not to speak any thing.***

Likewise their labour of love – (I Thes. 4:9)

*But as touching brotherly* ***love******ye need not that I write unto you****:*

*for ye yourselves are taught of God to* ***love*** *one another.*

And their patience of hope had led them to live in terms of the Lord’s soon coming so much so that Paul even commended them…*But of the times and the seasons, brethren,* ***ye have no need that I write unto you****.*  (I Thes. 5:1)

Do you pray for your church? Is your church alive, alert and attentive to these three components that the Church in Thessalonica was well-known for? **REFLECT**

1. However, even as the church in Thessalonica was well-complimented for their three-fold character as elaborated above, one needs to beware that they would not be just mere works. The church of Ephesus had them as well, and the Lord knew it. He said: *I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience*… (Rev. 2:2) but they lacked faith, love and hope. And among them, *the greatest of these is love* (I Cor. 13:13, NRSV).

 And the Church of Ephesus had lost this too! The Lord remarked: (Rev. 2:4) –

*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love*.

Paul said this of Demas: *Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world,*

*and is departed unto Thessalonica*. (II Tim. 4:10)

How is your present love for the Lord compared to your first love for Him? **REFLECT.**

**Points To Ponder:** *Has your first* ***L****ove for the* ***L****ord* ***L****asted till today?*