



Sermon Growth Guide

September 7, 2025

Vision Sunday

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 1:3 – “We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Big Idea: As we embody faith, love, and hope, we become a community that transforms the culture and shows Christ at the heart.

Foundations

Paul opens his letter to the Thessalonians with gratitude. He thanks God for a church whose faith, love, and hope are not abstract ideas but lived realities. He remembers their work produced by faith, labor prompted by love, and endurance inspired by hope in Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:3). These three—faith, love, and hope—are the lifeblood of a healthy church, expressed openly in action.

Just as the church was the heart of Thessalonica, we believe the church is the heart of Colorado Springs. A city has schools to train the mind, hospitals to heal the body, and government to lead, but the church is its heart. The heart defines what we love and value, where we turn for comfort, and what passions drive us forward.

As a congregation, we are stepping into a new chapter. In recent years we have worked hard to grow healthier as a staff and as a body, and God has been faithful. Yet the true test of our life together is not structures or scores but whether faith, love, and hope are visibly at work in us.

When we live this way, our city notices. Faith in action, love in labor, and hope in endurance become a testimony to the living Christ and show that the church is the heart of the city.

Understanding God’s Word

Paul remembers the Thessalonians for a faith that produced work, a love that prompted labor, and a hope in Christ that gave endurance. These qualities were not hidden but visible, shaping the life of their community. As we reflect on this passage, how do we see faith, love, and hope actively at work among us, and how might they define our church as the heart of the city?

Applying God’s Word

Paul’s words remind us that faith, love, and hope are not just inward attitudes but outward realities that shape the life of the church. When we choose to live God’s way, the Spirit transforms us, and that transformation becomes visible to others. Our work, our love, and our endurance are how the gospel takes root in a city. What step might God be asking you to take so that faith, love, and hope become more evident in your daily life?

Witnessing God’s Word

The Thessalonians’ faith, love, and hope became a witness far beyond their own city. Others heard of their endurance in Christ and were drawn to turn from idols and follow the living God. In the same way, our life together is meant to be seen. When we embody faith that works, love that serves, and hope that endures, we point others to Jesus and invite our city to find life in Him.