WE ARE BECAUSE YOU WERE

2Thess. 1:3 **We are** bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, **because** that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

1. WE ARE thanking God BECAUSE YOU WERE faithful.
   1. **We are** bound to thank God always for you, brethren
      1. **because** that your faith groweth exceedingly,

A person who grows in faith is a person who learns to depend upon Christ more and more in every area of life.

* + 1. And the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

A person who grows in faith is a person who learns to abound in love toward each other, no matter what.

Too many believers have their minds upon growing and increasing in the comfort and possessions of this world. They think little, if any, about growing in faith. They are satisfied with just enough faith to salve their conscience.

Faith growing and love abounding must be what we are bound to.

2Thess. 1:3 “**We are** bound”

1. WE ARE thanking God BECAUSE YOU WERE Chosen.

2Thess. 2:13 ¶ But **we are** bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, **because** God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

1. Faith is increased by sanctification of the Spirit
2. Faith is increased by belief and love of the truth. (II Thess.2:10-13)

* There is a sharp contrast between the followers of the antichrist and the chosen followers of the Lord.
* There is a sharp contrast between faithful followers who believe and love truth and those who don’t.

2Ki 16:7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, saying, **I am thy servant and thy son**: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me.

1. Ahaz enslaved himself (2Ki 16:7): “I am thy servant and thy son” that is,

(I will be as dutiful and obedient to thee as to a master or father)

1. Enslaved to a man
2. Enslaved to the enemy of God.
3. Enslaved to the wrong cause.
4. Enslaved to unreasonable service.
5. We must give our self only to the Lord.
6. We must willingly give ourselves to the right cause.
7. We must give our whole self to God which is our reasonable service.

2Thess. 2:13 “But **we are** bound” (free to the serve and worship the Lord spirit and in truth. Jn.4:24)