**Theme Sentence (what is the passage saying to us now):** God is at work in each Christian for the purpose of his glory

**Aim Sentence (why is the passage saying it):** That we give God the glory in all things

**Context and Style of Writing**

* Letter from Paul to Thessalonians – already spoken about the specific context of Paul and the people in Thessalonica, so no need to go into it now
* Specific two verses are a prayer
  + Actually telling the people how Paul, Silas and Timothy are praying for them
  + Two directional text – directed to God as a prayer of intercession for the Thessalonians, but directed to the Thessalonians as instruction and teaching about their relationship with God

**Content of the Passage**

* “with this in mind”
  + v5-10 have been about God’s judgement
    - Speaks about God punishing and shutting out those who do not know him
    - This happening on the day Jesus will return to be glorified in his people, which Paul says (v10) includes the Thessalonians, because they have believed
  + So let’s keep that in mind
* We have this in mind, but when we read the rest of v10 we see Paul praying the Thessalonians may be counted worthy of God’s calling
  + He’s just said quite clearly that they will be among those who will glorify God on the day he returns
  + Why would he now seemingly back down and say I pray God may count you worthy?
  + He’s calling them to persist in their faith – through the hardships they are facing, the persecution, the unsettling reports and prophecies Paul mentions at the start of Chapter 2
* And what does this look like? “that by his power he may fulfil every good purpose of theirs, and every act prompted by their faith”
  + This is God at work in the people he has called
  + Faith comes from God, it is him who initiates every good purpose and act of faith, and it is him who brings them to fruition
* And why does he pray this for them? “so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you”
  + It’s all for God’s glory!
  + Remember we still have in mind that one day Jesus is coming back in judgement to be glorified on that day by the people who are in him
  + But there’s more, because then, 2000 years ago, God was being glorified in his work through the Thessalonians
  + This is not just a future date, when he returns and they will start to glorify God, but it is now, in every hardship, and trouble, joy, and pleasure; as God is at work in them, they already glorify God
* And they are able to join in that glory “and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ”
  + By grace they are united to Christ, what was theirs (their sin, their rejection of God), he has taken away, and the glory that is rightly ascribed to him, they are able to partake in

**Main Application for us Today**

* And this is true today, for those who God has called, for those who have believed – for us
* God has called us, God is prompting us to live in accordance to his will, and God is bringing that to fruition in us
  + Yes it sometimes is tough, but do not be disheartened by those who do not believe, or by false and confusing prophesies
  + God is at work in us
* And it is for his glory
  + Think of that for a moment
  + The glory of the most high King, who will come in judgement
  + The only one, truly deserving glory
* And this is the glory which we, as Christians give to God, and by grace are able to partake in

**Explain the Theme and Aim of the passage**

* **Theme:** God is at work in each Christian for the purpose of his glory
* **Aim:** That we give God the glory in all things
* It is God who calls people to him
* It is God who initiates good purposes and acts
* It is God who fulfils these good purposes and acts
* And all this is for his glory
* A glory in which, by grace, we can partake