**Theme Sentence**

The passage of course has a lot to say, but I what I wanted to pull out was that “God is at work in each Christian, for the purpose of his glory”. *[repeat]*.

**Aim Sentence**

This is with the aim that “we glorify God in our lives.” *[repeat]*

**Context and Style of Writing**

The context for the book was of course discussed last time – Paul’s second letter to the church in Thessalonica, a church which faced a lot of persecution and yet, in a very short time, had come to a strong and firm believing faith.

In the two verses we’re looking at now, 11 and 12, Paul, Silas and Timothy are telling the Thessalonians how they are praying for them, and so there is a two directional nature to the text – it is a prayer to God that these things may be true of the Thessalonians, but it is also given to the Thessalonians as teaching and instruction for the people themselves to take and consider.

**Content of the Passage**

Looking at the verses themselves, v11 opens by saying “with this in mind”, so we need to look at what came before, to know what we need to keep in mind. Last time, Nathan gave his gobbet on v5-10 which spoke of Jesus returning to judge the godly and the ungodly. v10 tells us this will happen on the day Jesus comes to be glorified in his holy people, which Paul is clear includes the Thessalonians because they believed the testimony. Therefore, we have in mind the hope we have in God, that God is right, he will return to judge, and that the Thessalonian church will be part of the group who glorify God on that day.

It can be a bit confusing then when we carry on reading v11, and find Paul praying that “God may count the Thessalonian church worthy of his calling” – he’s just said quite clearly that they will be among those who will glorify God on the day he returns. Why does he seem to lose his confidence now, praying that they *may* be *worthy* of his calling? Is he not so sure after all? Was their belief in Paul’s testimony not enough? No. Paul’s exhorting them to persist in their faith *now*, day by day, in the assurance of the day to come. When they believed, they were made right before God and it is that which on that day will allow them to glorify God, yet as they live their lives there is still a daily struggle against persecution, and unsettling reports and prophecies. Paul is praying that God will continue to call them, and continue to be at work in them, drawing them to him.

As we read on we discover what this looks 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 and is calling. It is a faith that comes from God, God initiating good purposes and acts of faith, and God bringing these to fruition. You see it is all oriented around God.

And why do they pray this? v12 “Paul, Silas and Timothy pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, the Thessalonian church”. It is all for God’s glory! Remember to keep in mind that Jesus will return one day, to be glorified by all those who are in him – but now add to that the continual glorying of God which is the life of the Christian. 2000 years ago, God was already being glorified through his work in the Thessalonians. God’s glory is not just something for the future, for when he returns, but something the Thessalonians can do in every hardship and trouble, and in every joy and pleasure. As God is at work in them, they glorify God.

And they are able to join in that glory – “Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, 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 join in.

**Main Application for us Today**

This was true for the Thessalonian church, and this is true today, for those who God calls, for those who have believed. For us. God has called us, we will be in the group who glorify Jesus on his return, and God is continuing to call us; prompting us to live according to his will, and 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 messages. God is at work in us – by his power, he prompts us to live in accordance to his will, and by his power he brings that to fruition in us.

And he does this for his glory, the glory of the most high King, who will rightly come in judgement, the one, truly deserving glory. And this is the glory which we as Christians give to God day by day as he works in us, and by grace we are able to partake in. This is the Christian life now.

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

You seeGod is at work in each Christian for the purpose of his glory. So let’s live lives that glorify God.