

## A Loyal Heart

### Series: Blameless Hearts – 1 Thessalonians Series

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We are exploring a beautiful letter to the Thessalonians, a Celebration of the Gospel and Holy Spirit's Power. These people have experienced rapid, massive Spiritual Development as evidenced by Modeling.

All is good and everything is just wonderful in the Church in Thessalonica! Or is it? Is it ever "all good"?

#### 1. The Way of the Kingdom, the Cross, includes \_\_\_\_\_

"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. <sup>14</sup> For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: **You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews <sup>15</sup> who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out.** They displease God and are hostile to everyone <sup>16</sup> in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last." 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?

<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> "Let us break their chains and throw off their shackles." <sup>4</sup> The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. <sup>5</sup> He rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, <sup>6</sup> "I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain." <sup>7</sup> I will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father. <sup>8</sup> Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. <sup>9</sup> You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

<sup>10</sup> Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling.

<sup>12</sup> Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Psalm 2

#### How does Good Overcome Evil "With Good"?

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' <sup>39</sup> But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. <sup>40</sup> And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. <sup>41</sup> If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

<sup>43</sup> "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:38-48

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:14-21

#### 2. The Way of the Kingdom, the Cross, includes a \_\_\_\_\_.

"But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. <sup>18</sup> For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. <sup>19</sup> For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup> Indeed, you are our glory and joy."

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible unless otherwise mentioned. You may make comments or ask Bro. Tony questions about this message by email at: [brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org](mailto:brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org)