

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Main point:

God's word looks ordinary but it extraordinarily changes lives

Let's read Acts 17:1-12 to get an idea of the churches history

What did Paul do when he arrived at Thessalonica?

What was the result of Paul's preaching in Thessalonica and Berea?

How do people react to God's word today?

Let's read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

In verse 3, what does Paul give thanks to God for in the Thessalonians?

What might it look like to have these things evidenced in our own lives?

In verses 4-8, what effect did the gospel have on the Thessalonians?

Verses 9 and 10 is a description of Christian conversion: turn, serve and wait. Encourage one another with what idols you have turned from, how you now serve the living and true God, and what it looks like for you to wait for God's Son from heaven.

Pray that God's word would continue to change lives in Dubbo (and the surrounding region)!

1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

Main Point:

Our glory and joy is that others are found in Christ at his return

Intro

What is your proudest achievement? And what did it take to accomplish it?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20

In verses 1-12, write a list of all the things Paul did, and what reasons he gives for doing it like that.

Bonus: Verse 3 begins with the word "for" or "because", how does verse 3 explain verse 2?

Paul uses illustrations from family life. What does it show about Paul and his eagerness for the Thessalonians to have the gospel?

Which attitude from these verses would you like to develop further?

In verses 13-20, why does Paul thank God?

What were the results of the Thessalonians accepting the word of God?

How does verses 19-20 help us understand what motivated Paul throughout this chapter?

If we saw people coming to know and love Jesus as our glory and joy, how might shape the way we:

a) Live...

b) Serve...

c) Spread the gospel...

Pray that we would have hearts eager to see the lost saved

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

Main Point:

We should be concerned with helping others stand firm

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

How worried for the Thessalonians does Paul sound?

Why was Timothy sent? And what might it look like for him to succeed at his task?

How can we strengthen and encourage one another in the faith, particularly during trials?

What might it look today like for Satan to tempt us away from faith in Christ?

How might we help each other stand firm against Satan's schemes?

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

How did Paul feel after hearing back from Timothy?

Paul is still suffering for the gospel. So, what could Paul mean when he says "now we really live" in verse 8?

How is Paul's love and concern for the Thessalonians throughout this passage a challenge to our own love and concern for other Christian believers?

Our prayers show what is dear to our hearts. What does Paul's prayer in verses 11-13 show is dear to his heart? What is his hope for the Thessalonians?

Spend a moment to imagine what DPC would look like if God answered this prayer for us.

And then pray verses 12-13 for us here at DPC

1 Thessalonians 4:1-18

Main Point:

We want to live lives ready for the return of the king

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

What effect do verses 2 and 8 have on the feel of these verses?

In verses 3-12, what particular actions and attitudes are the Thessalonians urged to avoid? Which are they encouraged to have instead?

How do these verses cut right against the grain of our culture?

What's one thing you can do in line with these verses to live to please God more and more?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

What did Paul not want them to be uninformed about in verse 13?

Why did it matter what they believed about Christians who had died before Christ's return?

What is the hope that they have which should change the way they mourn?

Of the things Paul describes in verses 16-17, what are you looking forward to the most?
How does the hope we have in Christ help us to live out verses 1 to 12?

How can we encourage others with the words of this chapter?

Ask God to help us live lives that are different to non-christians around us

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Main Point:

The return of the king will come suddenly, so as children of the day, let's be ready!

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

What questions might the Thessalonians have had that Paul is answering? What might be their concerns?

In chapter 5:1-3, what do these verses help us to understand about "the day of the Lord", what it will be like, and its timing?

In verses 4-5, who do you think are the "children of the light and children of the day", those who "belong to the night or to the darkness"?

From verses 4 to 8, what might it mean to be children of the light and day, as opposed to belonging to the night or darkness?

What difference/s do you think the inclusion of verses 9-10 make?

What influences in your life make you spiritually "sleepy" or "drunk" and hinder your spiritual alertness to the return of Jesus?

As "children of the day" how can we keep ourselves spiritually awake and sober? How are we to live differently knowing Jesus is coming back?

Why does Paul conclude this section with verse 11?

Who is someone you could encourage this week with these words?

Pray that we would keep being reminded of the reality that Jesus is coming back

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Main Point:

The return of the king effects how we do life together as a church

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

In pairs, how might you group this passage into different sections? Give a title for each section, and then share them with the group.

In verses 12-13, how does Paul say we should treat our church leaders? Why should we treat them that way?

When might you tempted to have a bad attitude towards our church's leaders? What might you do about this?

In verses 14-15, how should we treat others? Why should we treat them that way?

Who is someone you need to warn, encourage or help? How will you go about doing this?

What helps you to live out verses 16-18? What can make it hard?

In verses 19-22, Paul speaks of weighing up what people say. If you have time, read 1 Corinthians 14:3, 24-25, 29-31 for some similar verses.

When someone shares with you something they say is "from God" or if they share something they have been reflecting on from the Bible to encourage, comfort or strengthen you, what do you normally do with it? What should you do with it?

Why is it fitting Paul concludes this letter with prayer and requests for prayer?

Thank God for our time in Thessalonians together, pray for things that struck you from this letter