



1 Thessalonians

Sunday, February 21, 2016

4. WAIT: We will ALWAYS be with the LORD (4:13–5:11)
 1. ENCOURAGE one another with HOPE & towards SOBRIETY (4:18; 5:11)

5. CERTAINTY: He will SURELY do it (5:23–24)

What do you write to those famous for their faith amidst affliction? See Paul's challenge to the believers in Thessalonica to serve the Lord and to wait well for His return fueled by their glorious hope in Christ.

1. SPEECHLESS?: What do you write to those whose faith was made FAMOUS through AFFLICTION? (1:1–10)

2. IMITATE: Telling how they loved THEM tells them how to love ONE ANOTHER (2:1–3:13)
 1. As FAMILY (2:1–12, 17)
 2. In AFFLICTION (2:13–16; 3:1–5)
 3. For JOY & GLORY (2:17–20; 3:6–13)

3. SERVE: This is the WILL OF GOD, your SANCTIFICATION (4:1–12; 5:12–28)
 1. SUBTRACT sin (4:1–8)
 2. EXPONENTIALLY ADD goodness (4:9–12; 5:12–22)



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Connecting Together

In this 7th week of Winter Growth Groups, take time to connect and share your joys and struggles together.

Studying God's Word Together

1. How did God speak to you through His word this week?
2. Have you ever seen an example of God making Himself known through affliction? Talk about that experience with one another.
3. Do a self assessment. Where are you at in your maturity as a believer in Jesus Christ? How do you know? Think about Paul's assessment of the Thessalonians in 1:1-10.
4. How can you imitate Paul's model of love for the Thessalonians with your brothers and sisters in Christ this week? Think: family, affliction, and glory.
5. What is God's will for your life? Which side of sanctification do you tend to emphasize/prioritize/value?
6. How are you at waiting? How does Christ's return impact your life today? How could it impact your life more?
7. How does the certainty of Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 tie everything together? Are you prone to see the future of the body of Christ, yourself included, as a possibility or as a promise?

Prayer

As you pray for specific needs in your group, seek to see one another as family, focus on those in the midst of affliction and set your sights on the glory promised at the coming of Jesus Christ. Abound in love for one another.