

1st & 2nd

THESSALONIANS

Knowing Jesus is coming back, live a life filled with purpose.

CURRENT THEME:

Knowing Jesus is coming back, live a life filled with purpose.

MARCH MEMORY VERSE

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

• 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV

MARCH 23 - LIFE APPLICATION

Stand firm in your faith!

NOTE TO PARENTS

Today's Scripture: **Thessalonians 2:13-17**

Since January, we have been studying **1st and 2nd Thessalonians**, Paul's letters to the church in Thessalonica. In February, we learned that Paul wrote to the believers telling them how they could live a life that pleases God. During March, we are studying **2 Thessalonians**. In **1 Thessalonians**, Paul had assured the church that they would not have to suffer the wrath of God on the Day of the Lord, because they would be raptured before this happens. Then, in **2 Thessalonians 1:1-12**, Paul told them that a day of judgment would come for those who persecuted them, but again, that they would be raptured before this judgment came. In **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**, Paul reassured their fears that they had missed the rapture. He also warned them about the antichrist, the man of lawlessness. **This week, Paul encourages and prays for the believers in Thessalonica, that they would know they have been chosen to bear fruit and that they would stand firm in their faith.**

Discuss 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

1. **Why does Paul say that he is always thankful for the Christians in Thessalonica?** (Read **verse 13** and discuss.)

- They are beloved by the Lord
- God chose them as first fruits to be saved
- They are sanctified by the Spirit and their belief in the truth

2. **Why were these people chosen by God?** See these verses:

*“And the Lord has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments.” **Deuteronomy 26:18***

*“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.” **Deuteronomy 7:6***

3. The Lord has also chosen us, the people who believe in Jesus and follow Him.

- *“For many are called, but few are chosen.” **Matthew 22:14***
- *“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.” **John 15:16***
- **Why did God choose us out of all the people in the world?** (So that we

could go and bear fruit.) **What does that mean?** (So that we can tell others about Jesus and help bring them to salvation. Then they can bear fruit!)

- **What else do we need to do?** (Abide - stay, or rest - in Him, so that whatever we ask in His name He may give to us.)

4. Read **verse 14**. **Why has He called us through the gospel - through knowing what Jesus did to save us?** (So that we can obtain the glory of Jesus Christ. We will be in His family and serve Him forever!)

5. In **verse 15**, **what does Paul tell the believers (and us) to do?** (Stand firm and hold to all that they, and we, have been taught, in spoken word and by letters to the church.)

6. **What is the assurance we have that nothing can separate those of us who love Jesus from the Lord?** Read together:

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Romans 8:38,39**

7. In the last two verses of this letter to the church he loved in Thessalonica, we find Paul's prayer for the church. Listen while I read, then let's discuss:

“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.” **2 Thessalonians 2:16,17**

What does Paul pray for them?

- That Jesus Christ and God the Father would comfort their hearts and give them hope through grace
- That Jesus would establish them, setting their good works and words firmly in place.
- That the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ would be with them all.

A word from our pastor, David Chadwick:

Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians is that they know:

1. **God's great love:** Oh, how much he loves you! Contemplate the cross!
2. **God's eternal comfort:** He is with you in all situations!
3. **God's good hope:** He has a good future and hope for you
4. **All through God's great grace:** That wonderful word again!

So that God can (practical application):

1. **Comfort your hearts:** sound doctrine equals a sound mind
2. **Establish your good works:** you were created for good works only you can do
3. **And your words:** to share the gospel with the world

The final word: ***Stand firm!***

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Say: "So, if we have been saved, God has a purpose for us, something He created for each one of us to do to make a difference in this world. Something only you can do! **How does this make you feel? Excited? Worried? A little scared?** Each of us has things that are unique about us. Let's talk about things that are special about each of us."

(Discuss together, pointing out positive things about each other and letting each person share how they feel God can use these attributes to serve Him and let others know about Jesus.)

As you get older, and even now, you will begin to see some special gifts that God has given you. These are called "**spiritual gifts.**" See if you think any of these fit who you are created to be!

- **Prophecy:** The ability to discern, and to see what is true and what is not.
- **Serving:** Shows love by serving others, meeting their needs.
- **Teaching:** Loves to research and learn biblical knowledge and truth and share with others.
- **Encouragement:** Sees potential and stimulates faith in people, encouraging them to do good things.
- **Leadership:** Can visualize goals, delegate, organize, help others use their giftedness for a common goal.
- **Giving:** Has the ability to see material needs, share resources and money, and enjoys giving good gifts.
- **Mercy:** Sensitive to others' feelings and desires to bring comfort and emotional healing.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, We are thankful that You chose us out of all the people in the world to be Your people. We know it's not because of anything we have done, but through grace that we have been saved. Please help us to use our gifts to share with others so they can know You and serve You too. In Jesus' Name, Amen.