

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 9 - LIFE APPLICATION

As followers of Jesus, live in faithfulness
& love for each other.

NOTE TO PARENTS

Today's Scripture: **2nd Thessalonians 1:1-12**

From January to Easter, we are 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 will be studying **2nd Thessalonians**. This week, Paul praises the believers of the Thessalonian church for their faithfulness and love. He then tells them of God's judgment for those who do not believe and who persecute them.

Discuss 2nd Thessalonians 1:1-12

1. In **verses 1 and 2**, Paul sends a greeting to the church in Thessalonica. **What are his hopes for them in verse 2?** (*Grace and peace through God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*)
2. In **verse 3**, why does Paul always give thanks for them? (*He is thankful because their faith is growing abundantly and their love for one another is increasing.*) **And in verse 4**, who does Paul tell about their faith and love? (*He boasts to the other churches because of their steadfastness in faith and love even through persecution and affliction.*)
3. In **verse 5**, what does Paul say the believers in the church deserve because of their perseverance in suffering and persecution? (*That they are worthy of the kingdom of God, their suffering proves it, and that God will give relief to them by afflicting those who have made them suffer.*)
4. And, in **verses 6-10**, Paul talks about the judgment of God on those who have persecuted the believers and who refuse to believe in Jesus. **What will happen to them?**
 - There will be repayment for all of those who have committed evil.
 - There will be relief for all who have suffered.
 - There will be punishment and eternal separation from God for unbelievers who don't know God and who don't obey the gospel as proof they don't know God.
5. In **verse 10**, Paul gives us the good news - the saints (that's us) who believe in him will be glorified and live with Jesus forever in heaven because they believed in the testimony of Jesus! There will be perfect justice in heaven! Evil people will be held accountable for their rebellious lives. All wrongs will be righted.

6. Finally, in **verses 11 and 12**, What does Paul pray for the believers?

- *He prays that they would be worthy of the calling of Jesus.*
- *Also, that they would resolve to do good and to use the power of Jesus to perform every act of faith. And, that they would glorify the name of Jesus.*

A word from our pastor, David Chadwick:

God's justice is connected to his holiness. A lot of people just want to believe that God is love - and he is. But he's also holy and is offended at our sin and rebellion against him. Jesus came to forgive us of that sin so that we will not have to face the justice of God. By grace, that forgiveness is given to us. But for those who do not believe in Jesus, and have rejected him and the gospel, they will have to face the justice and judgment of God. Especially people who have persecuted Christians - there will be a huge repayment upon their lives at the judgment seat of God. But for those of us who believe in Jesus, we have a glorious future awaiting us. And even our suffering here will have a repayment in heaven that will make the suffering seem so small in comparison!

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Paul boasted (bragged) about the faithfulness and love of the believers in the Thessalonian church. Let's think about our family and our church.

1. **Is our faith growing?** Let's think of examples of how our faith is growing!
 - Do you attend church, classes at Hope U or Hope U homes, etc.?
 - Are you having a daily quiet time with God, reading the Bible and praying?
 - Are the kids learning alongside their parents and with other kids? Are they going to Little Kids classes on Sunday, or Big Kids events? Are they listening to Kate's Kids Talks? Think about the Big Kids Day Camp at MOHC this summer as a great learning experience!
2. And, let's think about the way believers in our church and our family show love to each other. **Is there anyone at the church who shows love for you or our family? Have you thanked them? How are we showing love for others in the church and in our family?**

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, Paul teaches us that followers of You have a steadfast faith, even when we are suffering. And, we are to love each other. Help us to do these things to show Your glory to others so they will want to follow You! In Your Name we pray, Amen.