

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

INTRODUCTION TO 1ST THESSALONIANS

1 Thess. 1:1; Acts 17:1-10

Main Thought: In 1st Thessalonians, we learn how to live faithfully in preparation for Christ's return.

1. BACKGROUND (Acts 17:1-10)

- 1) The _____ of Thessalonica
- 2) The _____ comes to Thessalonica
- 3) The _____ of the Gospel
- 4) Paul's departure and _____

2. The _____ of 1st Thessalonians

- 1) A conversation about _____ and the church.
- 2) A conversation about _____ and suffering.
- 3) A conversation about the _____ and Christ's second coming.
- 4) A conversation about the Christian life and _____ in this world.

3. GRACE AND PEACE TO _____ (v 1)

- 1) What is _____?
- 2) What is _____?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read 1 Thessalonians and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.

2. What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings/yourself from this passage?

4. What verse meant the most to you? Why?

5. What didn't you understand in the passage? What answers did you find for your questions?

6. What application(s) for your life do you take away from this passage?

Digging deeper:

7. Read Acts 17:1-10.

1) Do so research on Thessalonica. What do you learn about that city?

2) How did Paul start sharing the gospel there?

3) What positive effect did his preaching have?

4) What negative effect did his preaching have? Why?

8. As you read 1st Thessalonians, what themes stood out to you from the letter?

9. Why did Paul start many of his letters to churches with the salutation "Grace and Peace"? What is grace? What is peace? Why are they important concepts for followers of Christ?