

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.

ESSENTIALS FOR FRUITFUL MINISTRY

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Main Thought: Every follower of Christ can have a fruitful ministry by incorporating the essentials found in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

1. BOLDNESS AND _____ (vv 1-2)

2. PURE _____ (vv 3-6)

3. _____ (vv 6-9)

4. _____ (vv 10-12)

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 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. How had Paul and Silas been treated and suffered in Philippi? (See Acts 16:11-40)

8. How does God help us to share the gospel amid strong opposition? (See Acts 1:8; 1 John 4:4; Isaiah 41:10-13)

9. Do you struggle to be bold and courageous in sharing the good news of Jesus with others? Why is that? How might you overcome your hesitancy?

10. What motives did Paul have when ministering to the believers in Thessalonica? What motives didn't he have?

11. How is a "people pleasing motive" a negative when seeking to share the good news of Jesus with people?

12. Paul describes his ministry among the believers in Thessalonica "as a nursing mother caring for her children" and as "a father dealing with his own children." What would a ministry like that look like?

13. Paul takes about living a holy, righteous, and blameless life before the Thessalonians. What does that mean?