

## 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.

## MORE ESSENTIALS FOR FRUITFUL MINISTRY

### 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

**Main Thought:** Every follower of Christ can have a fruitful ministry by incorporating the essentials found in 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20.

1. RECEPTIVITY TO THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF GOD (v 13)
  - 1) The \_\_\_\_\_ is the Word of God not men.
  - 2) The Bible is not just another \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (1) Inspired by the \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim. 3:16)
    - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ by people who were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Pet. 1:20-21)
    - (3) It is \_\_\_\_\_, pure, perfect. (Psalm 19:7-9)
    - (4) It is living and active, capable of changing \_\_\_\_\_ when applied. (Heb. 4:12)
  - 3) What can we do to increase our \_\_\_\_\_ to the Word of God?
    - (1) \_\_\_\_\_ it.
    - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ it.
    - (3) \_\_\_\_\_ it.
    - (4) \_\_\_\_\_ it.
    - (5) \_\_\_\_\_ on it.
    - (6) \_\_\_\_\_ it.
2. A PROPER ATTITUDE ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 14-16)
  - 1) There are different kinds of suffering experienced by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2) Why does the \_\_\_\_\_ about Jesus arouse violent opposition?
    - (1) It ignores human \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (2) It exposes human \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (3) It forgives blatant \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_ can make us bitter or better.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ PERSPECTIVE (vv 17-20)
  - 1) Paul looked ahead by \_\_\_\_\_ and saw his friends in the presence of Jesus Christ in glory.
  - 2) We need to \_\_\_\_\_ in the present and future tense.

### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS**

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 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 did the Thessalonians receive the word according to verse 13?

8. What do the following verses teach us about the Word of God?

2 Timothy 3:16

2 Peter 1:20-21

Psalms 19:7-9

Hebrews 4:12

9. Why is it important to recognize that the Bible is God's Word and not of human origin?

10. How can we be more receptive to the Word of God?

11. Whom did the Thessalonian church imitate? In what way?

12. Why are some people hostile to the Word of God and to followers of Christ?

13. Should we expect persecution for our faith? (See John 15:18-21; 16:33)

14. Why has (or will) the wrath of God come upon those who persecute believers?

15. What perspective should we keep in the face of persecution? (See verses 19-20)