

## 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.

## STANDING FIRM IN YOUR FAITH

### 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13

**Main Thought:** In 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13, we discover three activities that can help us stand firm in our faith.

1. THE IMPORTANCE OF \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 1-5)
  - 1) Paul sends Timothy to \_\_\_\_\_ the believers in Thessalonica.
  - 2) The need for constant \_\_\_\_\_ and support is an integral part of the Christian community.
  - 3) Do you realize the \_\_\_\_\_ of regular fellowship with other Christians?
  
2. THE IMPORTANCE OF \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 6-9)
  - 1) Paul celebrates the \_\_\_\_\_ the believers in Thessalonica were making.
  - 2) Paul knows the \_\_\_\_\_ of encouragement. (Acts 9:26-31)
  - 3) We are commanded to "\_\_\_\_\_ one another" (1 Thess. 5:1)
  - 4) What will \_\_\_\_\_ do to encourage someone this week?
  
3. THE IMPORTANCE OF \_\_\_\_\_ (vv 10-13)
  - 1) Paul prayed regularly for the faith of the \_\_\_\_\_ in Thessalonica.
    - (1) He prayed for their \_\_\_\_\_ to mature.
    - (2) He prayed their \_\_\_\_\_ would continue to grow.
    - (3) He prayed their character and \_\_\_\_\_ would be holy and blameless.
  - 2) We are \_\_\_\_\_ to pray for one another. (James 5:16)
  - 3) How's your \_\_\_\_\_ life? Are you regularly praying for your brothers and sisters in Christ?

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

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 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. Why did Paul send Timothy back to the believers in Thessalonica?

8. What were the believers there facing?

9. What was Paul afraid might happen to them?

10. Why is Christian fellowship important?

11. What report did Timothy bring Paul about the believers in Thessalonica?

12. How might the believers in Thessalonica felt upon hearing Paul's words in verses 6-9?

13. What can we do to encourage each other to keep growing in our faith?

14. What did Paul pray for the believers in Thessalonica? How often did he pray for them?

15. What do you learn about prayer from Paul's prayer?

16. Why do we need to pray for each other?