

**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.

**ENCOURAGEMENT**  
**2 Thessalonians 1:1-12**

**Main Thought:** In 2 Thessalonians 1, we discover three forms of encouragement that can be helpful during difficult times.

1. THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_. (vv 1-4)
  - 1) Their \_\_\_\_\_ was growing.
  - 2) Their \_\_\_\_\_ was increasing.
  - 3) Their \_\_\_\_\_ was impressive.
  - 4) Their \_\_\_\_\_ was helping others.
  - 5) How is \_\_\_\_\_ faith, love, perseverance, and testimony?
  
2. THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_. (vv 5-10)
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) Are we \_\_\_\_\_ in God's promises of reward, recompense, and rest?
  
3. THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_. (vv 11-12)
  - 1) For \_\_\_\_\_ of God's calling
  - 2) For a powerful, \_\_\_\_\_, walk in the Lord
  - 3) For an effective \_\_\_\_\_ by the grace of God
  - 4) How's your \_\_\_\_\_ life doing?

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

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12 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. Why do you think Paul often starts his letters to the churches he writes to with "grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"? What is so important about those concepts?

8. What is Paul thankful for in the church at Thessalonica?

9. What evidence would a person see if someone's faith was growing more and more and their love for one another was increasing?

10. What trials were the Thessalonian believers facing? What trials and difficulties have you faced recently? What has helped you persevere?

11. What does it mean that God is just? How is His justice described in this passage?

12. What will happen to those who have persecuted believers and rejected the gospel of Jesus Christ?

13. How do you respond to someone who said, "a loving God would never send anyone to hell"?

14. What will happen to those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus?

15. When will God's final justice be dispensed?

16. What do you learn from Paul's prayer in verses 11-12 that you can apply to your prayer life?