

PAUL DESCRIBES FAITHFUL LIVING

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-3, 4:16-18; 2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-2, 3:11-13

LEARN THE WORD

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

- Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians encouraged them to continue living faithfully even while they were being persecuted. Paul was thankful for their faith, hope, and love being an example to other believers.
- Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians offered correction for the false teaching that Jesus' second coming had already happened and for idle people to work and stop being busybodies. He urged them to not grow weary of doing good.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose your Christian friend says she's tired of trying to obey God. It seems like her serving at church and trying to share the Gospel with friends isn't doing any good.

What could you say?

I think it's great that you serve at church and share the Gospel! Obeying God can seem hard sometimes, but you are pleasing Jesus when you do these things. It would be selfish and unloving to keep the Good News of the Gospel to ourselves and just be happy that we are saved and going to heaven. As Christians, we are called to live faithfully. Although we will have times when we get tired, Paul wrote that we should not grow weary of doing good. It's motivating to know that Jesus is coming back—and we want Him to find us working in ways that honor Him. Jesus promised to reward His faithful children, and that helps me keep doing what's right. I want Him to be pleased with how I use the time He gives me on earth.

Activity: Help Paul's epistles get from Paul in Corinth to the church at Thessalonica by following the correct path.



HOMESWORD FOR PARENTS

Paul began his first letter to the Thessalonian church with encouragement. Paul was grateful for their faith, love, and hope (1 Thessalonians 1:3). They had received the Gospel with joy and conviction and became an example to the believers throughout Macedonia and Achaia. They had received the message of the Gospel in the face of persecution and boldly proclaimed the Good News to others (1 Thessalonians 1:6-8). The believers in Thessalonica had turned from their idolatry to serve God as they awaited the return of the resurrected Savior (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10).

Paul recognized that the believers in Thessalonica were already walking in a way that pleased God, but he charged them to continue and to do so more and more (1 Thessalonians 4:1). Though the Thessalonians had been living faithfully, there was still room to grow in holiness.

The second letter followed the pattern of the first. Paul expressed his thanks for their faithfulness and exhorted them to stand firm in the truth. But this time he also offered some correction. Idleness had become a problem. He warned them to labor diligently, providing for themselves and not becoming a burden to others. He warned them of the danger of an idle lifestyle leading to meddling behavior (2 Thessalonians 3:6-12).

He also addressed a false teaching that had risen regarding the second coming of Christ. Some of the Thessalonians were apparently afraid that Jesus had already returned. Paul reassured them that Jesus had not returned and would not do so until certain events happened first (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12). It was important that they understand the truth of Jesus' coming because it was that hope that motivated their faithful perseverance (2 Thessalonians 1:5-12). Like the Thessalonians, we can faithfully live in a manner that is pleasing to God because we are comforted in the hope of Jesus' return, when He will bring judgment for the wicked and deliverance to His children.