

③ The Hope of Gospel Ministry

Here's What I Know about Pastoral Ministry...

- ☑ Total Depravity of my/your heart and some will fall away
- ☑ Many will leave hurt, dissappointed, angry at me for letting them down as pastor
- ☑ My own ♥ will be hurt, let down
- ☑ Plus we will experience growing shaming, afflictions, persecution for faith

HOPE?

= GOD AND THE GOSPEL OF GOD!

☞☞ "Now may our God and Father himself, and our LORD Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the LORD make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of ~~the~~ our LORD Jesus w. all his saints."

LET'S DO THIS BY GRACE + HELP OF OUR Θ!

GIVING

Redeemer Offerings for 2017

May total: \$4,940

Actual YTD: \$98,354

Target YTD: \$123,500

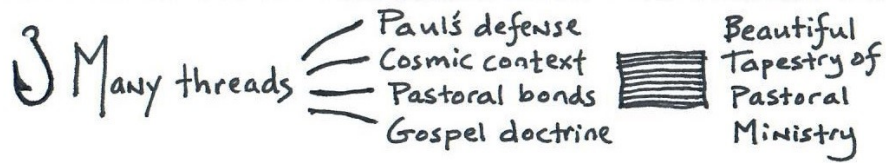
Net Difference: \$-25,146

2017 Target Budget: \$338,000

2017 Target reflects the Session's hope for giving in 2017 based on current giving and needs. Thank you for giving so cheerfully and faithfully.

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the "bond" that the ministry of the Gospel creates between pastor and congregation. Discuss why it is important that this bond be based on a shared faith and allegiance to Jesus, not on other things.
2. What does this passage teach us about the context of Gospel Ministry? Discuss the following: (1) That we are in a cosmic, spiritual battle; (2) that suffering is to be expected; (3) that we live "in between" the comings of Jesus Christ (his incarnation and return).
3. What is our hope of Gospel Ministry? Especially when you see that the pastor's and congregation member's hearts are depraved, and some will fall away; when you know that we will hurt each other and disappoint each other; and when you accept that there may be real persecution that we will face in the future. The answer is found in 3:11-13, in God and the Gospel of God. Talk personally about how these verses give your heart hope.



➔ LET'S DO THIS! 20 years ordained ministry
DON'T YOU WANT TO COME ALONG?

① The Bond of Gospel Ministry

Context = P's impactful ministry Acts 17 ▶
Conflict "saying that there is another king, Jesus"
✓ ▶ P's leaving ▶ controversy

1. Paul's bond w. the church "torn away" (17)
 - ☑ great desire to see you face to face (17)
 - ☑ you are our hope, joy, crown of boasting (19)
 - ☑ sent Timothy... comforted by T's report (3:7)
2. Church's bond w. Paul "always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you." (3:6)
3. Based on their shared faith in Jesus + Allegiance to Him as King. 3:7-8, Cf 3:2

Doesn't this make sense? It's how friendships work... see the same thing! C.S. Lewis

My experience = there is a deep bond Tears

② The Context of Gospel Ministry

Common misconception of the church as a kind of social club, networking, elevating social status smashed by Scripture + contemporary situation → Thessalonica

1. We are in a cosmic battle
 - ☑ Against Gospel spreading 2:15-16
 - ☑ Against a Spiritual Foe "Satan hindered us" Cf. 3:5
 - ☑ For G's Glory + people's good

Wartime Mentality... Resistance in WWII

2. Suffering is to be expected

Paul's teaching on affliction
You must expect affliction! Develop a theology of suffering 1 Peter

WWII rationing... bombing...

3. We live "in between" the comings of Jesus ▶ Incarnation + Return

Coming of our LORD... 4:13

Analogy of D Day — V Day
you are here