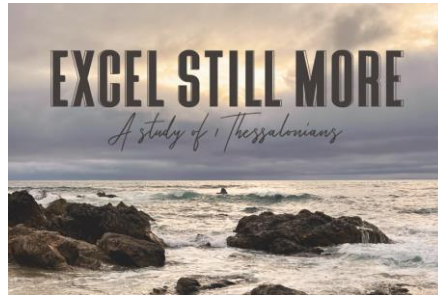


DISCIPLE'S QUEST

*If you continue in My word, then you are
truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31



August 27, 2023

1 Thessalonians 1:1-2

Encouragement for a Faithful Church

Main Idea

Although severely persecuted by both the religious Jews and the pagan civil authorities, the church at Thessalonica remained faithful. The transforming power of the gospel blazed brightly through the lives the believers led, making the church a powerful witness to the entire region. Personally refreshed by their steadfastness, Paul, writing for Silas and Timothy, encouraged them with a strengthening letter that began with word of the prayers and thanksgiving they continually offered for them.

Outline

Four principles to strengthen our practice of prayer and thanksgiving

- 1) It's good to share our times of giving thanks and praise with other believers

- 2) Giving the Lord thanks and praise is not something we should do only occasionally

- 3) We should not merely pray for others or give thanks for them in a vague or detached way – our prayers for others should be personal

- 4) We should pray and give thanks for one another unceasingly

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

#1 What similarities do you see between our culture and that of ancient Thessalonians?

#2 Why is faithfulness to Christ often met with persecution from the unbelieving?

#3 Is it possible that bearing up under persecution can actually amplify our testimony?
How?

#4 Can you think of a time when you were personally encouraged by receiving word that another believer was praying for you or giving thanks for you?

How/why did it affect you in this way?

#5 Why is it important to praise God together with other believers?