



# THE THREAD

*weaving Sunday's message through the week*

**Date:** October 16, 2022    **Passage:** 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

**Title:** "Lives Oriented to Christ's Return"

1. Paul's Desire – experience God's grace and peace (1:1-2)
2. Christ-oriented Thanksgiving (1:3-4)
  - a) Growing faith (confidence and reliance on God; Hebrews 10:38; 11:1)
  - b) Increasing love (expressed in word and deed; John 13:34-35; 1 Cor. 13; Eph. 5:1-2; 1 John 3:18; 4:7-12)
  - c) Steadfast endurance (Romans 5:1-5; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-9)
3. Christ-oriented Confidence (1:5-10)
  - a) Suffering is evidence of being united with Christ (5; Acts 14:21-23; Rom 8:16-18; Phil 3:9-10, 20-21; Heb 2:10; churches in Smyrna and Philadelphia)
  - b) God is just and will repay those who afflict his people (6; Rev 18-19)
  - c) God will give relief when Jesus returns (7)
  - d) The wicked will be punished (8-9; Rev 20)
  - e) Jesus will be glorified among those who believe (10)
4. Christ-oriented Prayer (1:11-12)
  - a) That God will make them worthy of his calling (11) – lit. grow into their calling (Ephesians 4:1-7)
  - b) That God will give and fulfill every desire for good (11; John 15:8; Eph 2:9-10; Phil 2:12-13; Titus 3:8, 14) – bear fruit
  - c) That Christ will be glorified (12)
  - d) That all of this would be enabled by God's grace (12)

**Main idea:** Our eschatology shapes how we live. We will live for the things we most deeply hope for. We will live and pray rightly only when we are rightly oriented to Christ's return.

**"How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives."  
(Annie Dillard)**

## Discussion Questions:

1. For what do you give thanks? Is your gratitude generally tied to temporal, material, or circumstantial matters, or to God's grace at work in your life and in the lives of others?
2. Where do you see signs of God's grace? Speak to those things by writing a note, sending a text, making a phone call, etc. Make those the substance of your gratitude.
3. How does suffering give evidence that we will be counted worthy of God's kingdom? How can this enable us to have joy, even in our suffering (read through the cross references from 3.a in the outline).
4. What does it mean to be made worthy (or walk worthy) of the calling of God? Are you growing into your identity as God's son or daughter? Are you walking in a manner worthy of the grace you have been given in Christ?
5. What characterizes your prayers? What do you think it means that our prayers reveal our devotion? What do your prayers reveal about your devotion?
6. What are some "desires for good" that God has given you? Do you feel able to bring those desires to fruition? What hinders them?
7. Use 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 to pray kingdom-oriented prayers. affection? Is it worth laying down in light of these promises?

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