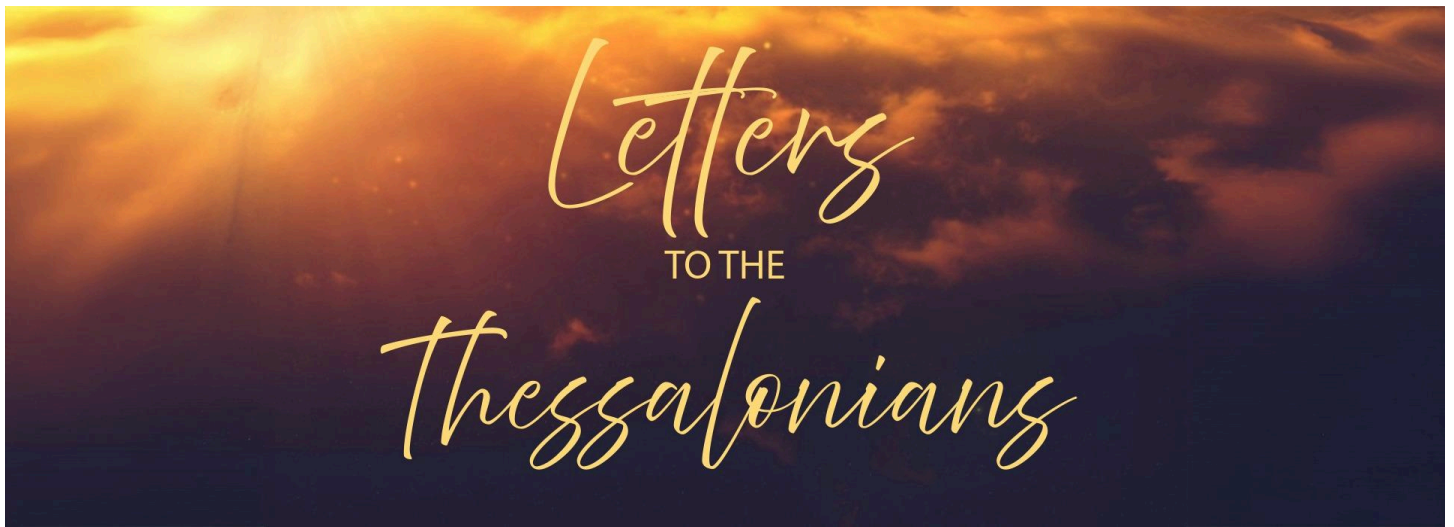




Week 8 – Letters to the Thessalonians

Stand Firm, Stay Faithful

Discussion Starter – There for You

- Question: *Can you name a Christian friend whose encouragement helped you through a time of crisis or doubt?*
 - Paul's example: His letters to Thessalonica overflow with gratitude, encouragement, and joy in their faith.
 - Key thought: Gratitude is a **choice** and a **celebration of what we have**, not a longing for what we don't.
 - Application: One of God's greatest gifts to us is the fellowship of other believers.
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Part 1 – Stand Firm in the Gospel

A. Chosen and Called (2 Thessalonians 2:13–14)

- Paul thanked God for their faithful endurance.
- They were:

- **Chosen by God**
- **Loved by the Lord**
- **Sanctified by the Spirit**
- Faith is the result of God's grace and our will to follow Him.
- Future hope: Sharing in Christ's glory now and in eternity.
- **Discussion:**
 - How might your faith be the "firstfruit" of a greater harvest?
 - What does it mean to share in Jesus' glory here on earth?

B. Hold to the Truth (2 Thessalonians 2:15–17)

- Knowledge of truth strengthens believers to endure.
- Paul urged them to keep a strong grip on his teaching.
- Maturity means believing God's truth over emotions.
- Paul prayed for their comfort and hope—results of God's grace.
- **Discussion:**
 - How can we help each other "keep a strong grip" on the gospel?
 - How has God comforted you and given you hope?

Part 2 – Remain Faithful to God

A. Pray for Us (2 Thessalonians 3:1–2)

- Paul asked for prayer:

- For the gospel to spread rapidly.
- For deliverance from opposition.
- The Thessalonians, who knew persecution, were ideal prayer partners.
- **Discussion:**
 - Why were the Thessalonians good prayer partners for Paul?
 - How can we strengthen our prayers for the spread of the gospel?

B. Strengthened in Him (2 Thessalonians 3:3–5)

- God strengthens and guards His people continually.
- Paul's confidence: They would remain obedient and faithful.
- His prayer: They would express God's love and endurance.
- **Discussion:**
 - How have you experienced God's strength in hard times?
 - How can we reflect God's love toward others?

Part 3 – Keep On Doing Good

A. Do Not Be Idle (2 Thessalonians 3:6–12)

- Paul addressed the issue of idleness in the church.
- His example: He worked hard to avoid being a burden.
- Warning: "Those unwilling to work will not eat."
- Idleness caused division and distracted from unity.
- **Discussion:**
 - How does obeying God's commands bring blessing?

- How can our diligent work glorify Jesus and strengthen our testimony?

B. Unite with Those Who Obey (2 Thessalonians 3:13–18)

- Encouragement: Don't tire of doing good.
 - Warning: Withdraw from the disobedient, but treat them as family needing correction.
 - Final prayer: God's peace and grace would sustain them.
 - **Discussion:**
 - What does it mean to "warn as a brother or sister"?
 - What makes us grow weary in doing good—and what's the solution?
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Living It Out

- **Pray intentionally:** Reach out to a missionary, church planter, or pastor—commit to pray for them.
- **Encourage accountability:** Tell two friends you are praying for them and ask them to pray for you.
- **Work diligently:** Show excellence in your work for God's glory and point to Him when praised.