



Small Group Notes

Sermon: 10 July 2022



Part 3

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 3:1 - 4:12

OVERVIEW

After being chased out of Thessalonica & Berra by an angry mob Paul ends up in Athens and is deeply concerned for the young church he left behind. So he sends Timothy to them to ensure they are walking well in the midst of affliction. Timothy's report back is a huge source of joy and encouragement to Paul and we see in this passage two main themes.

Genuine love

Paul rejoices in the culture of love that is evident in this church. He draws out 4 key characteristics of genuine love modelled here

1. It's caught not taught (4:9)
2. It's evident not assumed (3:6)
3. It's desirous not dutiful (3:9-10)
4. It's prayerful (3:10)

We saw how genuine love matters because it reflects a true picture of the love of God who loved us first, who demonstrated his love perfectly through the cross, who desires all and who is mediating for us in heaven.

Authentic lives

Secondly, Paul celebrates the authentic lives of faith found within the church. He charges them to continue to grow in purity and holiness and highlights some keys to help us do that:

1. It's God's will (4:3)
2. Control our bodies (4:4-6)
3. Control our desires (4:11-12)
4. It's by the power of the Spirit (4:8)

QUESTIONS

1. Looking at the characteristics of Genuine Love Paul draws out, where do you feel you have experienced and shown that, but also also where could you grow?
2. Are there any wrong views of God's love towards you that need to be corrected?
3. Where do you feel the Lord challenging you to grow in holiness at the moment?

Pray for one another to be filled with the Spirit so we are able to grow in genuine love and authentic lives.