Reflecting on 2 Thessalonians 3:16-18 January 10, 2021

Introduction: This week, we complete our study of the Thessalonian epistles. In the final verses of the text we find that Paul ends his letters right where he starts them, emphasizing grace and peace. From these final verses, we identify two key principles of grace and peace:

- 1. The secret to experience the peace of God is practicing God's presence (16)
- 2. The secret to experiencing grace is to understand the ongoing work of the grace of Christ in our lives (18)

In the end, the thrust of the sermon is that God wants believers to practice peace and walk in grace.

Up for Discussion:

1. Thinking back over the last few months of our study in the Thessalonian epistles, what have been some of your biggest take-home points? How has God used this study in your life? 2. Why do believers fail to experience God's peace in their lives? Name three factors that can rob Christ followers of peace.

3. What are some practical ways to remind yourself of the sovereignty and presence of God? How might your church family play a role in this effort?

4. Why was God's grace necessary in order for us to be saved? (See Eph. 2:1-9)

5. Why is God's grace necessary for our growth in Christlikeness? (See Gal. 2:20 and Titus 2:11-12)

6. How does the gospel play a continuing role in our lives and our ministry? How can we foster a continuing appreciation of the gospel as we walk with the Lord?