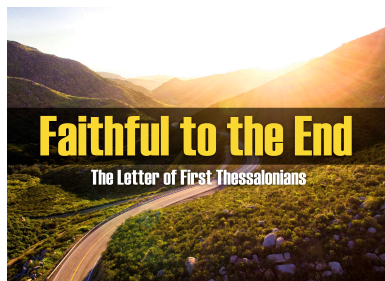


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Standing Firm in Shaky Times

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
February 21, 2021



Do you want to stand firm? Do you want to be unshakeable?

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, after we were separated from you for a little while (though our hearts never left you), we tried very hard to come back because of our intense longing to see you again. ¹⁸We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us.¹⁹ After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you!²⁰ Yes, you are our pride and joy.

- **God gives each of us the opportunity & responsibility to influence others for Christ.**

1 Thessalonians 3:1-8 (NLT) Finally, when we could stand it no longer, we decided to stay alone in Athens, ² and we sent Timothy to visit you. He is our brother and God's co-worker in proclaiming the Good News of Christ. We sent him to strengthen you, to encourage you in your faith, ³ and to keep you from being shaken by the troubles you were going through. But you know that we are destined for such troubles. ⁴ Even while we were with you, we warned you that troubles would soon come—and they did, as you well know. ⁵ That is why, when I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy to find out whether your faith was still strong. I was afraid that the tempter had gotten the best of you and that our work had been useless. ⁶ But now Timothy has just returned, bringing us good news about your faith and love. He reports that you always remember our visit with joy and that you want to see us as much as we want to see you. ⁷ So we have been greatly encouraged in the midst of our troubles and suffering, dear brothers and sisters, because you have remained strong in your faith. ⁸ It gives us new life to know that you are standing firm in the Lord.

- **Trouble and uncertainty threatens to shake us.**

- **Faith in Christ enables us to stand firm in the midst of all trouble. How?**

- **By living out the reality of who we are in Christ and who we are becoming in Christ.**

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NLT) How we thank God for you! Because of you we have great joy as we enter God's presence. ¹⁰ Night and day we pray earnestly for you, asking God to let us see you again to fill the gaps in your faith. ¹¹ May God our Father and our Lord Jesus bring us to you very soon. ¹² And may the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow and overflow, just as our love for you overflows. ¹³ May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen.

1) We are loved in Christ so we extend love to all. v. 12

1 John 4:19 "We love each other because he loved us first."

2) We are strong in Christ so we live with humble resolve. v. 13

Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT) "And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

3) We are blameless in Christ so we prioritize integrity. v. 13

Romans 8:1-2 (NLT) "So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death."

Romans 8:12-14

4) We are holy in Christ so we practice holiness. v. 13

1 Peter 13-16 (NLT) So prepare your minds for action and exercise self-control. Put all your hope in the gracious salvation that will come to you when Jesus Christ is revealed to the world. ¹⁴ So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶ For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."

Big Idea: Stand firm by embracing who you are & who you are becoming in Christ.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Standing Firm in Shaky Times
#3 of 7 - February 21, 2020**

- 1) What stood out to you in this message and what questions did it raise?
- 2) What has been the most challenging aspect of this past year for you? In what ways have you been “shaken” this year? How has this impacted your faith journey?
- 3) Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20. Describe in your own words the feelings that Paul has for these people. What strikes you about the depth of his commitment to them and their spiritual maturity? How does this challenge you as you think about the people you influence?
- 4) Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-8. What sort of “troubles” were the Thessalonians and Paul experiencing and what caused these troubles? In what ways can you relate to their experience?
- 5) Read 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13. What stands out to you from this passage? What do we learn about God and about us as His people?
- 6) Which of the 4 “positional truth statements” resonates with you the most and why? Why is it important to live from our identity in Christ? What is God saying to you about this?
- 7) In what ways have you seen growth in the areas of love, resolve, integrity, and holiness? Choose 1 of these areas and indicate an action step you feel God is asking you to take to grow in this Christ-like character this week.
- 8) Take time as an IC to pray and plan engagement around the “Helping the Homeless” Missional Focus for Feb. and March.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Standing Firm in Shaky Times
#3 of 7 - February 21, 2020**

- 1) What stood out to you in this message and what questions did it raise?
- 2) What has been the most challenging aspect of this past year for you? In what ways have you been “shaken” this year? How has this impacted your faith journey?
- 3) Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20. Describe in your own words the feelings that Paul has for these people. What strikes you about the depth of his commitment to them and their spiritual maturity? How does this challenge you as you think about the people you influence?
- 4) Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-8. What sort of “troubles” were the Thessalonians and Paul experiencing and what caused these troubles? In what ways can you relate to their experience?
- 5) Read 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13. What stands out to you from this passage? What do we learn about God and about us as His people?
- 6) Which of the 4 “positional truth statements” resonates with you the most and why? Why is it important to live from our identity in Christ? What is God saying to you about this?
- 7) In what ways have you seen growth in the areas of love, resolve, integrity, and holiness? Choose 1 of these areas and indicate an action step you feel God is asking you to take to grow in this Christ-like character this week.
- 8) Take time as an IC to pray and plan engagement around the “Helping the Homeless” Missional Focus for Feb. and March.