

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Living a Good News People

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
February 18, 2024



What does it look like for us as the church to live as Good News people?

¹ Thessalonians 2:1-8 (NLT) You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not a failure. ² You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there. Yet our God gave us the courage to declare his Good News to you boldly, in spite of great opposition. ³ So you can see we were not preaching with any deceit or impure motives or trickery. ⁴ For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. ⁵ Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money! ⁶ As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else. ⁷ As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you, but instead we were like children among you. Or we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. ⁸ **We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.**

What is the Good News?

"The 'Gospel' is the Good News that through Jesus, the Messiah, the power of God's kingdom has entered history to renew the whole world. Through the Saviour God has established his reign (loving leadership). When we believe and rely on Jesus' work and record (rather than ours) for our relationship to God, that kingdom power comes upon us and begins to work through us. We witness this radical new way of living by our renewed lives, beautiful community, social justice, and cultural transformation. The good news brings new life. The Gospel motivates, guides, and empowers every aspect of our living and worship." Jim Belcher

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What has God given you that you can share to bless others?

What has God done in you that you can use to encourage & equip others?

Big Idea: In response to God's love for you... Share the Good News & your Life with others.

How can you share the Good News with others?

1) **Share the 3 Circles.** <https://sequoiachurch.org/starthere>

Romans 3:23

Romans 5:8

Romans 6:23

Romans 8:1

Romans 10:9

2) Share your "Jesus changed me" story.

"I have found that my relationship with God through Jesus has really helped me deal with my _____."

How can you share your Life with others?

1) Pursue self-giving & authentic friendships.

¹ Thessalonians 2:6-8 (The Message) "Even though we had some standing as Christ's apostles, we never threw our weight around or tried to come across as important, with you or anyone else. We weren't standoffish with you. We took you just as you were. We were never patronizing, never condescending, but we cared for you the way a mother cares for her children. We loved you dearly. Not content to just pass on the Message, we wanted to give you our hearts. And we did."

2) Practice radically ordinary hospitality.

- **The table is an ordinary place where extraordinary things can happen.**

"Hospitality means primarily the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place. It is not to bring men and women over to our side, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines." Henri Nouwen

- **A marker of how we are doing in our apprenticeship with Jesus is in how we are doing in our hospitality!**

In Revelation 3:20 (NLT) Jesus says... "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."



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

Living as Good News People
#4 of 5 - February 18, 2024

- 1) Last week we looked at the Value of Corporate Prayer. What has God been saying to you in this regard? What have you been able to apply this week?
- 2) Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions does it raise for you?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 5) What is the Good News / Gospel? How does the Apostle Paul embody this Good News as a reflection of Christ?
- 6) What do we see from Paul in regard to how he pursues authentic relationships and demonstrate hospitality with the Thessalonians?
- 7) **Application:** What resonates with you from this message? What is God saying to you?
- 8) Review the Action Points from the message. Which one is most significant for you today and why? What specific steps is God asking you to take this week?
- 9) Take time to pray for one another.



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