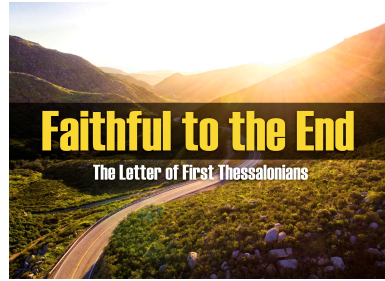


## SEQUOIA NOTES

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

#### Messengers Approved by God

With Jeremy Vasic  
Multiplication and Mobilization Catalyst  
February 14, 2021



#### How do we live out our faith and thrive in the face of opposition?

1 Thessalonians 2:1-2 You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not a failure. <sup>2</sup> 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.

**God's purposes are fulfilled in the midst of opposition, not in the absence of opposition.**

**Big Idea: Learn to share the Good News of Jesus in the face of opposition through a reliance on God's power and connection with Christian community.**

#### We share the Good News in the face of opposition with:

##### A Rooted Identity.

1 Thessalonians 2:4 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.

#### How can you live from an identity in Jesus rather than live for an identity in the world?

##### A Sincere and Genuine Approach.

1 Thessalonians 2:5 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! <sup>6</sup> As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.

#### How can you grow in your reliance on the work of the Holy Spirit?

##### A Real and Shared Life.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 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. <sup>8</sup> We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God's Good News but our own lives, too.

#### What are the already existing areas of your life where you can invite other people in and begin to share your life with them?

##### Intentional Living.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-11 Don't you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God's Good News to you. <sup>10</sup> You yourselves are our witnesses—and so is God—that we were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you believers. <sup>11</sup> And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children.

#### How can you grow in your love for Jesus so that you can intentionally be on mission with Him?

##### A View of Eternity.

1 Thessalonians 2:12-13 We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.

#### How can you remind yourself of the eternal significance of the Gospel?



**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**

**Messengers Approved by God  
#2 of 7 - February 14, 2020**

- 1) What stood out to you in this message and what questions did it raise?
- 2) Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13. What stands out to you from this passage? In what ways were these believers messengers approved by God?
- 3) How do you find it more difficult to thrive in your faith during times of opposition? How do you find it easier?
- 4) How do you think we should treat opposition and challenges as Christians? What can we learn from Paul (and those with him) about this?
- 5) How does a view of the reality of opposition in our faith change our perspective of relying on God's power? How does it change our perspective on the purpose of Christian community?
- 6) Which of the 5 ways to live out our faith do you find most helpful as you have shared your faith in the past? Which do you find the most difficult?
- 7) Share which of the 5 areas God is asking you to focus on. How might He be asking you to grow in that area this week?
- 8) How can you remind yourself, and each other, that the Gospel of Jesus fulfills every part of life?
- 9) Take time as an IC to discuss and plan engagement around the "Helping the Homeless" Missional Focus for Feb. and March.



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