DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE

TEXT SUMMARY

Short as it is, our text, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5, falls into three sections:

- Paul asks his people to pray for him (v. 1-2)
- Paul assures his people of God's work in their lives (v. 3-4)
- Paul pronounces a blessing on his people (v. 5)

SERMON POWERPOINT SLIDES

"Four Ways God Is At Work in My Life"

God is at work...

1. ...drawing people to Himself (v. 1)
2. ...delivering His people (v. 2)
3. ...strengthening His people (v. 3-4)
4. ...changing the hearts of His people (v. 5)

The singular question that defines
the trajectory of my life:

Do I trust God?

Paul doesn't say...
May the Lord modify your behavior so that you can be a better person.

Questions?

Want to talk?

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INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

1. What requests are at the top of Paul's list of requests for prayer? (v. 1-2)
2. What contrast do we see between the end of v. 2 and the beginning of v. 3?
3. What are two implications of the faithfulness of God? (v. 3) Since God is faithful, He will...

   - _____
   - _____

4. What confidence did Paul have concerning the believers in Thessalonica?
5. In his benediction (v. 5), Paul asks that God direct the hearts of His people toward what two objectives?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

1. Why do you think he asks for prayers for protection from wicked men? Self-protection is surely involved, but what do you think is his primary motive in this request?
2. What does it mean for God to "establish" His people? (See how different English Bibles render that verb.) What is God doing when He "establishes" us?

SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

God is at work in our lives in several areas:

- ...drawing people to Himself (v. 1)
- ...delivering His people (v. 2)
- ...strengthening His people (v. 3-4)
- ...changing the hearts of His people (v. 5)

How can we respond faithfully and obediently to each of these ways God is at work in our lives?