

THIS WEEK

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, KAILUA KONA, HAWAII

events

Aloha! Thanks for worshipping with us either online or in person. Please wear your mask before and after the service.

Visitors, we have a gift for you at the Welcome Table.

Please sign in your children for **Nursery and Kid's Church**.

Middle School Youth Group
Wednesdays 4:30-6 pm

Interested in becoming a member of Grace? **Discover Grace Class** with Andrew on Sunday, Oct 24.

We are celebrating our **Harvest Festival** on Oct 30 with candy, games, and a chili cook off. The fun starts at 3:30 with hot dogs and chili at 4:30.

You can pick up your boxes for **Operation Christmas Child** this Sunday.

Please choose your date and time to help with our **Fall Tidy Up**. Contact Kalehua or Cheri.

Ways to Give:

- Online on our website or app
- Giving box on Sundays
- Mail a check to the church



Andrew Severinsen

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

Context: A defense of Paul's ministry among the Thessalonians (2:1-16) and a documentation of Paul's ongoing, eager desire to visit the Thessalonians (2:17-3:13).

Big Idea: Paul explains his absence, expresses concern for the Thessalonians' suffering, reaffirms his affection, and thanks God for Timothy's encouraging report.

- Paul's ongoing desire to visit
- Timothy's good report
- Paul's prayer in response

GRACE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Paul's Longing to See Them Again (2:17-3:5):

- Paul explains that he and his associates longed to reunite with the Thessalonians, but "Satan hindered us" (2:18). What are some dangers of being under-aware of the demonic realm? What about being over-aware? From this passage, we see that Satan can hinder our plans (2:18) and tempt our hearts (3:5), but what does Paul's prayer in 3:11 assume about the scope of Satan's power?
- In 2:19-20, Paul calls the Thessalonians church his "hope," his "joy," his "crown," and his "glory." This is remarkable, especially in light of all of this congregation's faults. How do you view our local church? Are you mainly aware of its faults or its beauty? What might need to change, whether in your thoughts, speech, or behavior, to more closely resemble Paul's perspective and heart?
- Paul describes Timothy not merely as *his* coworker but also as *God's* coworker (3:2). Why do you think he ascribes such a lofty and unusual title to Timothy? How does Paul's explanation in 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 clarify the meaning and significance of this title?
- What are all Christians "destined" for, according to 1 Thess 3:3-4? Does this surprise you? Why or why not? Notice Paul did not merely mention this in passing while in Thessalonica; he "kept telling" them (3:4). See Acts 14:21-22.

Timothy's Encouraging Report (3:6-13):

- Why, according to 3:1-5, did Paul send Timothy to Thessalonica?
- Having been reassured through Timothy's report, Paul declares, "For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord" (3:8). What are you most tempted to "stand fast in" besides the Lord?
- Paul's well-being is deeply bound up with the Thessalonians' well-being: their flourishing brings him comfort (verse 7), gratitude (verse 9), joy (verse 9). What are some ways to cultivate a heart that is more easily edified — even electrified — by reports of God's grace?
- What can we learn about prayer — what is it, what is it for, and how to do it — from 3:11-13?
- Verses 11-13 form a transitional prayer linking the previous section (2:1-3:10) to the second half of the letter (4:1-5:22). Based on these verses, what themes will be featured predominantly in the rest of the letter?