

# 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

**Food Drive** today. Please bring your non perishables to the kitchen window.

**Business Meeting** - and a bounce house for the kids - will be after today's service.

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

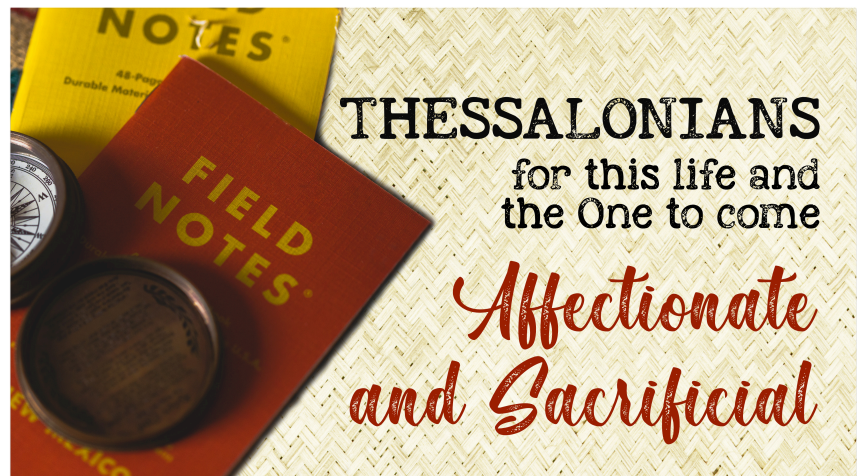
**Harvest Festival** - Oct 30

### Ways to Give:

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

### Giving Snapshot:

- Budgeted - \$251,250
- Actual Giving - \$260,593



**Andrew Severinsen**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

**Big Idea:** 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).

- Paul's message — what
- Paul's motives — why
- Paul's methods — how
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## GRACE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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### Paul's Ministry to the Thessalonians (2:1-16):

- John Stott observes, "In 1 Thessalonians 2 and 3, more perhaps than anywhere else in his letters, Paul discloses his mind, expresses his emotions, and bares his soul" (*The Message of 1 and 2 Thessalonians*, 45). How do you specifically see Paul's pastoral heart on display in 2:1-16?
- On the surface, it seems as if Paul's primary focus in this passage is on himself and his ministry. However, what word appears repeatedly (14 times in 16 verses)? Even while defending his genuineness as an apostle, Paul's perspective is relentlessly God-centered. What about yours? When recounting your experiences, sharing your testimony, or explaining your actions, who is the main character of your words, and why?
- How did Paul's being "shamefully treated" in Philippi (see Acts 16:19-40) influence his ministry to the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 2:1-2)?
- What does Paul clarify concerning his message, motives, and methods — the "what" and the "why" and the "how" — in the first several verses of chapter 2?
- What metaphors does Paul use in this passage to describe his conduct among the Thessalonians? What is the significance of each?
- Verse 8 is a beautiful statement on the importance of loving those to whom we witness. Paul points out this his ministry in Thessalonica was not a hit-and-run gospel invasion. Instead, he and Silas and Timothy were happy to stay, form friendships, and invest in their new friends' lives. What are the benefits of so-called "relational" or "friendship" evangelism? Are there any dangers?
- What does it mean to "walk in a manner **worthy** of God" (verse 12; see also 2 Thess. 1:5, 11; Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27; Colossians 1:10)? How does such language fit the reality of God's grace, which assures us that we do not earn right standing with God by living a good life?
- Suffering for sake of the gospel was the calling not just of the apostles (1 Thess. 2:1-2), but also of the whole congregation (verses 14-15). And the Thessalonians' opposition were not enemies from foreign lands but were their "own countrymen" (verse 14). Have you ever suffered — relationally or socially, perhaps even physically — for your Christian faith?
- How were the Jews opposing all mankind (verse 15)? Why do you think Paul equated opposition to evangelism (verse 16) with opposition to humanity (verse 15)? What implications might this have for our lives?