Words of Encouragement

Jeff Trahan · 2 Thessalonians 1:1–12

INTRODUCTION

- When you look at the letters of the New Testament, they were written not only to correct problems that existed among the churches at that time.
- He was not only a corrector, but also an encourager. And it seems to me that we would do well to learn from his example.
- I want us to look at some of the encouraging words that Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica.

1 The Encouragement That Comes From Praise

2 Thessalonians 1:3–4; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; Matthew 8:10

- We ought always to give thanks to God for you brothers as is right because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing.
- But that doesn't mean that it wasn't fitting for him to praise their commendable qualities.
- What Paul does here in this chapter is he avoids both congratulation, which sometimes corrupt, and silence, which sometimes discourages.
- He thanked God for them. And then he told them that's what he was doing.
- Faith is a relationship of trust in God. And like all relationships, it is a living, dynamic, growing thing.
- Love involves a living relationship whose growth we can take steps to nurture if we really want to do that.

2 The Encouragement That Comes From Promises

Matthew 5:10–12; 2 Corinthians 4:16–18; Psalm 73:1–3

- First, Paul talks in this chapter about the promise of reward.
- Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Paul in this same chapter talks about the promise of repayment as well. When the Lord returns, the wicked will be the ones who are afflicted and the righteous are going to be rewarded.
- As Christians, we are called upon to live for eternity rather than merely living for the present.
- The purpose of God's vengeance is to satisfy his holy demands. The purpose of revenge is to pacify a personal grudge.
- The word relief means release or the relaxation of tension or pressure. And it's the opposite of the affliction that Paul talked about.

3 The Encouragement That Comes From Prayer

2 Thessalonians 1:11–12; 1 Corinthians 4:1–4; Ephesians 4:1

- To this end, we always pray for you that our God may make you worthy of his calling, may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power.
- Being worthy of God's calling is tied in one way or another to the way God views us.
- The only assessment of our lives that counts in the end is God's.
- Paul said that we must walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which we have been called.
- Live a holy life because the judgment day is coming.
- Not only that we will be glorified in Christ, that's important, but also that he will be glorified in us.

THE CHALLENGE

Let's maintain the right view and let's encourage one another to do that very thing.

MY NOTES