



Session 9: Encouragement to Live Well

READ:

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13, 4:1-12, 5:4-28; 2 Thessalonians 3

CONNECT: Cast Down

When have you felt discouraged?

WATCH: Encouragement to Live Well

As you watch the video, fill in the following:

A. Discouragement

What was discouraging the believers in Thessalonica?

B. Irresponsibility

The false prophets convinced some of the Christians they no longer needed to _____ themselves and to engage in normal _____ .

What three commands did Paul give in 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

C. Ethical Living

What was the first aspect of ethical living that Paul addressed?

According to Dr. J. I. Packer, what is our eternal life?

D. The Process of Salvation

Second Thessalonians 2:14 tells us that the Thessalonians were sanctified and believed the truth in order that they: _____

E. Ethical Implications of Salvation

According to Paul, why can't professing believers who do not live righteously by the power of the Holy Spirit complete the process of salvation?

DISCUSS

- Paul directed his instructions about responsible living to the community of believers (2 Thess. 3:6, 11). Have you ever seen a good example of a church addressing difficult issues that arise in the community? If so, how did they do it?
- In 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 Paul encouraged believers with these words:
Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.
 - Individually, underline all of the words and phrases in this passage that encourage you.
 - Discuss as a group what you underlined.
- 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 records Paul's prayer for the church at Thessalonica. Write or pray this prayer in your own words for your local church.

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART: Imitate Me

- Identify in the verses below specific ways that Paul saw himself as a model to be followed:
 - Philippians 3:3
 - Philippians 3:9
 - Philippians 3:12-14
- According to 2 Corinthians 3:18, what does Paul believe about the work of the Spirit in the life of the believer?

APPLY:

- How has this study encouraged you in your faith?
- Read the following passage and answer the questions below:

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

- What in these verses is stirring your heart today?
- What are you going to do about it?