

Week of May 17, 2021: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12



Discussion Questions Set #1

“Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ ... therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.” (2 Thessalonians 1:1-2 and 4)

1. False teaching, particularly around end times material, seems to abound during times of crisis and difficulty. Why do you think this is the case?
2. Why might one’s ability to persevere be impacted by false teaching? Why is important to note Paul’s ability to boast of the Thessalonian church’s perseverance in the face of persecution?
3. Paul begins his letter with an acknowledgement of the Thessalonians identity in Christ and their access to His grace and peace as a source of strength. Why is centering one’s identity in Christ important when it comes to the development of perseverance? Why might the acknowledgement of Christ as the source of grace and peace be important to one’s ability to persevere?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.” (2 Thessalonians 1:3)

“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. (Jeremiah 29:5-7)

1. Why do you think that maintaining a growth/multiplication mindset is important to our perseverance?
2. How might a posture towards growth in faith in God position one to be more perseverant?
3. Why might an increase in love for one another be helpful for the development of perseverance? Why do you think love for one another might decrease in the face of difficulty?
4. What aspects of a growth/multiplication mindset or a decrease/maintenance mindset have you noticed within our present circumstances?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“All this is evidence that God’s judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering ... With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.” (2 Thessalonians 1:5 and 11)

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)

In sermon, we discussed the need to “keep going”; that is, to continue moving onward in one’s faith, even in the face of difficult times.

1. How does going or engaging in good works bolster one’s perseverance?
2. Twice in our passage, Paul indicates that perseverance in the face of suffering serves to make or prove one worthy of God’s calling or Kingdom. Is Paul suggesting that we earn our place in God’s kingdom through good works? If not, what do you think Paul means here, particularly in relation to perseverance?
3. Discuss the balance between this command to continue moving onward and the encouragement of Psalm 46:10 to “be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth”.

Discussion Questions Set #4

“We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Thessalonians 1:12)

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

1. How might a commitment to witness – to make Christ’s name great – impact one’s perseverance?
2. How do you think our perseverance might lead to the name of Christ being glorified in us?
3. What role does perseverance play in our ability to witness to the reality of Jesus Christ?
4. Why do difficult circumstances sometimes lessen our ability to glow or shine for Jesus in our world?