



Dig Deeper @Home – “Return of the King”

Complement to sermon on December 11, 2016 – “A Resilient Follower”

MEMORIZE – 1st Thessalonians 1:4

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

READ 1st Thessalonians 3

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What is this passage revealing about God and what is it revealing about us as humans?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life? What will that look like?
3. What trials/afflictions was Paul referring to in verse 3? (Read Acts 17:1-11 for context) What does Paul mean when he says, vs. 3 – “For you yourselves know that we are destined for them?”
4. Should we tell the trials/difficulties associated with being a Christian to others when we share the gospel even though this may discourage them from believing? Why or why not?
5. What in Timothy’s report (vss 6-10) particularly encourages Paul? What does this tell you about Paul’s desires and concerns for the Thessalonians?
6. What guidelines can you find in Paul’s desires, concerns and prayers for helping people to grow in their faith?

Bottom Line - Give a one or two sentence summary of the scripture:



Experiential

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The one below is a suggestion for how to experience the truths of 1st Thessalonians 3.

Who Helped?

In what specific ways have you been encouraged by someone else's faith? Tell the group how that person influenced your walk with God. This week, decide on a particular way to thank them either with a card or a call. If they are no longer alive, give thanks to God for their godly influence in your life.

SING (a suggested song to sing. Use this or any song you might want to sing)

Come, thou long expected Jesus - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dmO8UPIWoo>

A great song of Advent written by Charles Wesley expressing a longing for Christ's return.

Hymn – O come, O come Emmanuel - #111 in Mennonite Hymnal

Sing the verses of this classic Advent song in unison, expressing the desire of our hearts for Christ to come. Sing the chorus, with joy with the hope and promise that Christ will come as He promised.

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson: Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.