

# Life in the Word

*Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson*



Sermon Series: **Hope Now and Forever**

Sermon Title: **The Road to Hope**

Scripture Passage: **1 Thessalonians 1:4-10**

## Getting Started Sharing from personal experience

1. It is impossible to read Paul's for sentence in verse 4 without seeing that he was confirming the Thessalonian believer's election, or their chosen status, as one's "loved by God." Begin this week with a discussion of John 15:16.

Q: In your understanding, what does it mean that Jesus said to his disciples, "...you did not choose me....?" What do you think Jesus' statement means with regards to any and all Christian believers?

## Observation Discovering the context

2. In verse 6, Paul makes a statement that is easy to gloss over. He says, "And you became imitators of us and of the Lord..." Look up the scriptures below. What is the common theme or thread running through each of them?
  - a. 1 Cor. 4:15-17
  - b. Phil. 3:17
  - c. Phil. 4:9
  - d. 2 Thess. 3:7-9
  - e. 2 Tim. 3:10-11
  - f. 1 Tim. 4:12
  - g. Titus 2:7-8
3. What about living a "life worth imitating" sounds daunting or perhaps even scary?

4. According to verse 6, one of the marks of the called and chosen Thessalonian believers is that they had joy in the midst of suffering and hardship. They may not have been “happy” about every circumstance, but apparently they never lost their “joy” no matter what.

Q: From a Christian perspective, what is the difference between “happiness” and “joy?”

5. When is the last time you discovered you could still have joy while you were in the middle of a difficult circumstance? Tell us about it.

6. In verse 9 Paul commended the Thessalonians because they had turned from worshipping idols to worshipping the true God. We do not live in a culture where we are tempted to worship idols of wood or stone—but we are still tempted with idols.

Q: What idols might you say America bows down today instead of the true God?

Q: What possible idols might you say exist even in the churches of America today?

## **Interpretation** Discovering the meaning

7. Read Matthew 6:33.

Qa: What does it really mean for the Christian to “seek God’s kingdom first...?”

Qb: How does this scripture challenge your life today?

Qc: What recent victories have you personally experienced as a result of seeking God’s kingdom first?

8. Study verse 10 and John 3:36. In verse to Paul states that Jesus has delivered us from the “wrath to come.”

Q: What is the “wrath to come and when does it occur in the future?”

( Hint: I Thess. 5:2-3 and Joel 2:31)

### **Core Truths** Discovering Biblical truth

In your own words, share at least one core truth God has shown you in this week's study and why it is timely or significant for you.

### **Practice Makes Progress** Putting knowledge into practice

What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?

### **Worth Memorizing**

Scripture: *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. Ephesians 5:1*

### **Prayer Time**

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

### **Praise Time**

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?