

Life in the Word

Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson



Sermon Series: **Hope Now and Forever**

Sermon Title: **Real Communicators of Hope Part 2**

Scripture Passage: **1 Thessalonians 2:7-12**

Getting Started Sharing from personal experience

1. Paul begins this section with a compelling image of what it means to be Spiritual leaders and guides. To the Thessalonian believers, he not only shared in their new birth as Christ followers, but he was also their Spiritual “parent”. Paul continued to walk with them as they grew up in their faith.

Q: Have you had this kind of experience? Is there anyone in your life currently that you are a Spiritual “parent” to?

Observation Discovering the context

2. In verses 7-8, Paul makes statements about just how he cared for and loved the Thessalonian Church. He says, “But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother...affectionately desirous of you...ready to share our own selves...” Look up the scriptures below. What is the common theme or thread running through each of them?
 - a. Numbers 11:12
 - b. 2 Corinthians 12:15
 - c. 1 John 3:16
 - d. Romans 1:11-12
 - e. 2 Corinthians 6:11-13
 - f. Philippians 2:17
 - g. Isaiah 66:3

3. What about living a “life of labor and hardship” sounds daunting or perhaps even scary?

4. According to verse 9, Paul and his companions worked “day and night” to provide for their own means, so as to not become a “burden” on the Thessalonians. Here the emphasis rests on the fact that they were called to sacrifice certain things for the Kingdom of God.

Q: What type of labor has God called you to sacrifice for as a disciple and servant of Jesus?

5. In verses 10-12, Paul reminded the Thessalonians of their behavior and conduct, and exhorts them to live a life “worthy of the God” who called them into “his own Kingdom and glory”. The Bible teaches us two manifestations of the Kingdom of God that Jesus preached; the current invisible Kingdom and the coming of the future visible Kingdom.

Q: Which Kingdom is Jesus referring to in Luke 17:20-21?

Q: Which Kingdom is Jesus referring to in Matthew 13:41-43?

Interpretation Discovering the meaning

6. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:12 again.

Qa: What does it mean to “live a life worthy of God?”

Qb: Give three examples of living our lives in an unworthy fashion:

Qc: What recent victories have you personally experienced as a result of living your life worthy of God?

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: By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. *1 John 3:16*

Prayer Time

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

Praise Time

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?