

Life in the Word

Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson



Sermon Series: **Hope Now and Forever**

Sermon Title: **Bold Hope**

Scripture Passage: **1 Thessalonians 2:13-20**

Getting Started Sharing from personal experience

1. We are very good at taking people's word on just about anything. We trust their character, the years we have known them, or who they are professionally. We have all said, or at least thought, "I'd trust this person with my life".

Q1a: Do we feel the same way about God?

Q1b: Why do we struggle with taking Scripture at face value (moving from just agreeing with it, to truly believing it)?

Observation Discovering the context

2. In vs. 13, Paul commends the Thessalonians for taking the gospel for what it truly was. He states, "that when you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of man, but what it really is, the Word of God....". Look up the Scriptures below. What is the common thread?

- a) 2 Peter 1:16-21
- b) 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
- c) Acts 17:11
- d) Hebrews 4:2

3. How are we to view Scripture?

4. How has the Church's evangelicalism and academics changed the way we view (or at least some view) Scripture over time? You will need to do some Church history digging as well as take a look at present times.

5. Paul points out that the Jewish and Gentile believers receive their greatest persecution from their own people. Have you ever experienced persecution from your family because of your devotion to Jesus? Do you know someone who has? Please tell us about it.

Interpretation Discovering the meaning

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17 again.

a) The image of being torn away from the Thessalonians, not in heart, but physically, gives a stark picture of what our brothers and sisters face as a reality every day around the world. Paul's longing is to see them face to face, shows his deep love and care for their souls. How can we be more intentional about the gospel with our neighbors and friends to insure we see them "face to face" in Heaven?

b) How has Paul challenged your walk this week?

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: **“For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:21**

Prayer Time

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

Praise Time

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?