

The Disciple

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104 ELM AVENUE
P.O. BOX 1344
LOUISA, VA 23093

540-848-6441
LOUISACHRISTIANCHURCH.ORG
LCCPASTORV@GMAILCOM

Sermon Thoughts

Thessalonians 2

Just as Pastor Vincent asks the congregation, please take a moment to read the scriptures before reading through the notes on the sermon. In this way, you can more easily become familiar with the points of the sermons as you use this format in your walk with God.

Information is a valuable commodity these days. Companies, like Facebook, Instagram, Google, and many more are collecting and using information about us. If you use the internet, there is a profile on you. This is a disturbing concept that can lead to a narrowing of thought and polarization in our society.

But that is not the profile and information that 1 Thessalonians is talking about, Paul is talking in these verses about the way God uses the profile he has on us. In Chapter 2 of 1 Thessalonians, Paul reminds us that the gospel is not put on hold by the circumstances of this world.

Paul lists the ways to remain in the gospel and to bring forth the word of God into real life.

- We are approved by God with the gospel.
“We speak not to please man, but to please God who challenges our hearts.” We must become approved. How do we do that? Paul is not talking about not sinning as we all sin, but we do have to choose to stay in sin or with sin. In 2 Timothy 2: 15 we are reminded, “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

- Spread love through authenticity.
It never changes that as human beings, each of us has a need to be seen, loved, and known. Self-righteousness does not serve these needs and it can be a barrier to spreading the gospel. But showing a true view of challenges that we face in our lives, can lead to enhanced, caring relationships. That type of



“Be strong,
and let your
heart take
courage, all
you who
wait for the
LORD!”

Psalms 31:24

vulnerability can lead to others finding their way to a deeper relationship with God.

- Live a life worthy of the gospel.

In verses 11 -12 say, “And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. ¹²We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.” This is Paul saying the words that we all need to hear, “You can do it, Go and do it.” Walk a life that is worthy of God and Jesus will share his glory with us.

The second half of Chapter 2 gives us the tools to spread the gospel. This is the key to the growth of the church. The foundation on which the church has been built for 2000 years. God gives the prophets, the apostles, the disciples, and Christians the ability to share and spread the word of God.

- * Embrace your sword.

As a soldier trains with his weapon, train with the word of God. You would not expect a defender to go into battle never having picked up a weapon. Neither can you defend the gospel without being familiar with it. Ephesians 6: 17 says, “Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” Choose to read the scriptures and savor the texts. Ponder it. Don’t know the Bible, but know the God of the Bible. Read it, believe it, declare it, and act on it.

- * Suffer the Mob.

There were mobs in Paul’s time just as today. And mobs, with their negative energy, tend to bring out the worst in people. There will always be a certain type of person that wants to see the world burn. But we are to stand strong in the midst of the negative energy. Jesus did not hide from the world, he surrounded himself with it. And he suffered for it. In the same way, we, as Christians, are not immune from suffering. We will suffer, sometimes because we are Christians. But we are called to continue to gather and continue to come out to encourage each other.

- * Shine Like a Star.

Be confident that you know how the story will end. Like a beacon, Paul points the way to Christ and shows us all how our story will end. We can depend on it. We will shine brightly like the stars, forever and ever just by letting God use you in other people’s lives. Keep hope, and know that most of Christian life is just showing up. Be the one who goes where God wants you when he wants you to go. Do the work and show the struggle, show the joy, be transparent. Plant seeds, forgive the unforgivable, love the unlovable. God is keeping a profile on you so that you will shine like a star forever and ever (Daniel 12:3) As you follow this direction you will become as Paul says, “the embodiment of the glory and the joy of Christ Jesus.”



Find all our sermons, radio broadcasts, newsletters, and other worship resources on our website at louisachristian-church.org



Outreach is now bringing meals to about 10 families. It is very nice to share a meal with others even when we cannot eat together.

With Winter coming , soups would be a great thing to stock in the freezer. Meals should feed 2 to 4 people and be packaged for easy re-heating.

If you have a prepared meal, contact Penny Best if you need help getting it to the church freezer.

Thank you for your help.

A Brief Theology of Color

From the Salt Project.org



The brilliant colors of creation are often biologically helpful, sometimes in more ways than one. A coral reef's vibrant palette protects against the sun's ultraviolet rays, and at the same time helps the coral attract mates. The bright hues of flowers lure pollinating insects and birds.

So what about the colors of fall foliage?

Turns out that's a different story. Many leaves contain yellow and orange pigments all year round, but in the spring and summer they're masked by the vivid greens of chlorophyll, the pigment responsible for the absorption of light to provide energy for photosynthesis. But as the days shorten and the temperature falls, the chlorophyll breaks down and drains away - and those yellows and oranges begin to shine through. They were there all along, quiet and unnoticed, but now they emerge as the green curtain fades. If God is a painter of autumn trees, what we see is an art not of addition but of subtraction. It's an art of revelation, of revealing the hidden beauty of what was always already there.

But what about those stunning reds? Those pigments appear when the leftover sugars in certain leaves are transformed into anthocyanins, red and purple pigments. And that transformation, incidentally, is most intense where there is the most light - which is why the leaves (or even the *parts* of leaves) most bathed in sunlight are the most deeply red of all. Ditto for the sunny sides of apples; that's where the crimsons emerge. As it turns out, the Divine Artist paints not only by revelation, but also by transformation.

So the next time you take a walk or a bike ride through a landscape alive with changing fall foliage, recall that this grand spectacle - arguably one of the most beautiful annual changes in the world - is a sheer riot of glory for glory's sake. It's a tide of splendor spilling over the world's brim, flooding the forest for no biologically advantageous "reason" other than its own radiance.

And recall, too, that those oranges and golds arrive by way of revelation, disclosing what's been there all along; and those reds and purples, by a transformation of leftovers. A divine sermon in pigment and light, shimmering for all who have eyes to see.

Happy fall, everyone!

"When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place— what are mere mortals that you should think about them, human beings that you should care for them? Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor." Psalm 8:3-5



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Story of Inspiration

Our Value

A well known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. In the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?"

Hands started going up.

He said, "I am going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple the dollar bill up.

He then asked, "Who still wants it?"

Still the hands were up in the air.

"Well," he replied, "What if I do this?" And he dropped it on the ground and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe.

He picked it up, now all crumpled and dirty. "Now who still wants it?" Still the hands went into the air.

"My friends, you have all learned a very valuable lesson. No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20.

Many times in our lives, we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way.

We feel as though we are worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you will never lose your value. You are special - Don't ever forget it!

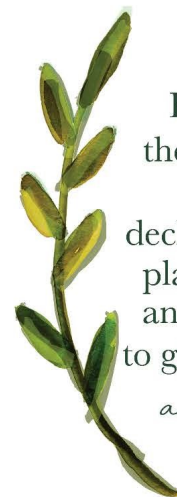
Scripture Cards (Cut out and save or share)



... fear not,
for I am with you;
 be not dismayed,
for I am your God;
 I will strengthen you,
 I will help you,
 I will uphold you
 with my righteous right hand.
 Isaiah 41:10



... but they who wait for
 the LORD shall
renew their strength;
 they shall mount up
 with wings like eagles;
 they shall run and
not be weary;
 they shall walk and not faint.
 Isaiah 40:31



For I know
 the plans I have
 for you,
 declares the LORD,
 plans for welfare
 and not for evil,
 to give you a future
and a hope.
 Jeremiah 29:11