

# The Disciple

OCTOBER 4, 2020

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

540-848-6441  
LOUISACHRISTIANCHURCH.ORG  
LCCPASTORV@GMAILCOM

## Sermon Thoughts

### The End of James and the Beginning of Thessalonians

The Sermons on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> focus on the end of the book of James and the beginning of the book of Thessalonians. Two books that are written by 2 apostles, James and Paul, that had different views on Christianity.

James ends his direction in the final verses of the Book of James with some final advice to Christians. He is clear that Jesus has saved us from sin, but he cautions that we will still be held accountable. Accountable not for our sin, be for our lives. What have we done our lives? How have we utilized the gifts we were given: Our time, our resources, our talents. James reminds us that who we are matters.

**<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.**

James 5:13 - 14

In other words, don't be alone in this world. Call for reinforcements. Boost yourself up and call on others to help you maintain your course with Jesus.

If you have sin in your life, find a trusted friend or confidant. Let them help you. Do not wallow in guilt, regret, or shame. As Christians, you are not meant to live in that space. You are meant to bring your shortcomings into the light. To allow others to see that Christian life is not perfect, but it is forgiven. We, as Christians, are meant to bring the light of Jesus' forgiveness to each other and to ourselves.



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

**Psalms 31:24**

This may mean that we face troubles and life situations that seem impossible to reconcile. Mountains that seem impossible to climb. But James reinforces the point that Paul made in 2 Corinthians 5. Although no one is righteous except Jesus, we can move mountains (face hard times) because we have the righteousness of Jesus on us. And because we are covered in this grace, we can be a comfort and an ambassador to each other. We can speak into someone's life with the authority of Jesus and encourage each other in Christ. We become reconciled to God through the cross. One of the many ways this power exerts itself is to help us minimize the trouble we face so that we may become a blessing to someone else's life.

And so James ends his instruction, and we move to Paul's letter to the church at Thessalonica. Paul, Simon, and Timothy were led to this city by a vision. They went straight to the temple, and their words caused unrest and riots. They finally left, probably for the safety of their hosts. But then Paul wrote this letter. A letter to a church that still had an active memory of the crucifixion.

And Paul begins with I pray for you, we remember your devotion, we know you are ready. He reminds them (and us), you heard me. You listened to the gospel. The gospel has power. It is work produced by faith, labor prompted by love, and endurance inspired by hope. We are meant to share the gospel. The success of the church depends on us sharing the gospel. But we must know that the gospel is more than mere words. The gospel is power. Within the message of the gospel, you will find all that is needed for success.

The gospel brings the message of Jesus into focus for us to believe in him. It asks us to focus and believe that Jesus is who he says he is. We don't need to be powerful when we share the gospel; we just need to be real. We need to step into the storm. Christianity is to volunteer to step inside the storm, to be hit by the lightening of the gospel, soaked by the rain of God's grace, and lifted up to the clouds of hope.

Thessalonians is said to speak to the end of times. That has been on a lot of people's minds. And this book talks about a time of tribulation. But as Christians, we know a rescue is coming. God's compassion and mercy is all we need.



Find all our sermons, radio broadcasts, newsletters, and other worship resources on our website at [louisachristian-church.org](http://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.



*Dear Outreach Committee,*

*Thank you so much for the nice meals brought to us by Pastor Vincent recently. It was enough for two meals and we enjoyed all the selections. It was so nice not having to prepare and cook dinner but instead just a simple heat and enjoy. What a real blessing the Outreach Committee has been during this uncertain and rather lonely time. Having meals brought to us brightened our life and we wanted to say a special thank you for thinking of us.*

*Love,  
Pat and John Jerl*

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You can give online.  
Visit our website,  
[louisachristianchurch.org](http://louisachristianchurch.org)  
and click on  
**“Tithe Here”**  
to donate using a credit  
card.

You can also donate by  
mailing your contribution  
to:

**Louisa Christian Church**  
**P.O. Box 1344**  
**Louisa, VA 23093**

We thank you for  
your support.



### **A Blessing for Creation**

**Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
And where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master,  
Grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood, as to understand;  
To be loved, as to love;  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.**

(In many congregations October 4th marks a time to celebrate St. Francis, who by Catholic tradition, is the patron saint of Animals. The following is a reading to celebrate the animals in our lives)

Jesus Christ, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

**We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.**

Jesus Christ, as we join in celebration with you and all creation,

**We ask for your blessing, your *shalom*, on the creatures that we love, and all creatures celebrating in the wild.**

In the name of God, who creates all life, In the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life, and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life, we cry with all in the circle of life:

**Shalom! Shalom! Shalom!**

**May your blessing come!**

# Story of Inspiration

## Wisdom In A Cup

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit an old university professor. Conversation soon turned in to complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee. When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said:

If you noticed, all the nice looking, expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is but normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee in most cases. It's just more expensive and in some cases even hides what you drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup. But you went for the best cups, and then began eyeing each other's cups."



The professor continued, "Now consider this: Life is the coffee, and the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live."

*Sometimes, by concentrating only on the appearance of the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us.*

## Are You Attending



## the Board Meeting

### Board Meeting Scheduled

**October 13 at 7:30 PM**

Please let us know if you plan to attend the next Board Meeting. And if you will be attending, will you attend Online or In Person.

You may respond to Pastor Vincent, Greg Strickland, or Sheryl Eubank.

## Scripture Cards (Cut out and save or share)

Therefore,  
since we are surrounded by  
so great a cloud of witnesses,  
let us also lay aside  
every weight, and...  
*run with endurance the race*  
that is set before us,  
*looking to Jesus*  
the founder and  
perfector of our faith.  
Hebrews 12:1-2

In the world  
you will have tribulation.  
*But take heart:*  
I have overcome the world.  
John 16:33

**Come to me,**  
**all who labor and**  
**are heavy laden,**  
**and I will**  
**give you rest.**  
Matthew 11:28