

7. Let's be honest here, why is prayer such a small part of your life? What does your lack of prayer say about you?
8. How would we know if we were depending upon ourselves to "fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith" (v. 11b) rather than depending upon Christ's power?
9. How would your spiritual life change if you knew that 4 or 5 other Christians were praying for you daily like Paul prayed for the Thessalonians?
10. Paul prayed that Christ's name would be glorified in them. How is Christ's name glorified in us? What does that look like?
11. Pastor said that "as we receive His grace, we reveal His glory." What are the ways that we receive God's grace? What does His grace look like throughout the day?
12. How does the fact that the best is yet to come for the Christian affect your emotions?
13. What is the most difficult thing for you to admit about your spiritual life based on this morning's message and/or our discussion?
14. It's good to discuss truth, but it's better to do it (Jam. 1:22-24). Could you share a specific way that you want to change based on this morning's message and/or our discussion?



Studies in 2 Thessalonians #3
Encouragement Under Fire
Part 3

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
 Pastor Jim Efaw
 Sunday Morning, April 13, 2008

Introduction: *Review the background and the context.*

- *The Thessalonians were still baby Christians.*
- *The Thessalonians were under persecution for their faith.*
- *The Thessalonians had lots of unanswered questions.*
- *The Thessalonians were confused by a false letter.*

I. The encouragement of praise (1:1-4)

II. The encouragement of promise (1:5-10)

III. The encouragement of prayer. (1:11-12)
(3 concerns in Paul's prayers)

A. Paul prayed for their worthiness. (1:11a)

- We are never worthy of salvation. (Eph. 2:8-9)
- We are only worthy "in Christ". (1:1)
- Paul was praying that their Christian behavior and focus be worthy of their calling. (Rom. 8:28-30)

B. Paul prayed for their walk. (1:11b)

- Our goal should be to fulfill our desire for good works.



Community Fellowship Groups—Questions

- Our goal should be that we accomplish these good works with God's power.

C. Paul prayed for their witness. (1:12)

- Christ is to be glorified in our lives today.
- When we glorify Christ, He is glorified in us. (Psa. 84:11)
- This is accomplished through the grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
- As we receive His grace, we reveal his glory.

Conclusion:

Some applications from the passage:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Some general applications about prayer:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Sunday, 4/13/2008

All of these questions are based on the Sunday morning message. Some of them may require more transparency than others, and they may be difficult for you to answer publicly, but please discuss even those in your meeting time. All of us long for real fellowship, and these questions might get us closer to that goal.

1. The Apostle Paul prayed for the worthiness of these young Christians. We are never worthy of salvation, but are we worthy of any of God's gifts? Why or why not?
2. In what area of your spiritual life do you feel the least worthy of God's calling? Where do you struggle so regularly that you wonder if you'll ever be worthy of His calling in that area?
3. How does the fact that we are worthy in Christ encourage us?
4. Pastor Jim said, "Trials do not make a person, they reveal what a person is made of." What can our trials reveal about us?
5. What would be some indications that a Christian really believed he could only be victorious through Christ's power?
6. Prayer is one of those spiritual disciplines that we all know we should do, but all of us feel guilty about how little we pray. (Yes, all of us feel guilty!) Why is prayer such a small part of most Christians' lives?