

BUILD TO LAST

I & 2 THESSALONIANS

“Face to Face”

September 20, 2020

1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Part 5 of “Build to Last”

Last week: 1 Thess. 2:13-16

The word of God is THE most valuable possession!

This Week: Key Verse: “For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?”

1 Thess. 2:19

The church was created to work as a _____ body of _____ disciples, and each disciple was created to work as a _____ part of the _____ church.

1. Desperate Times. (2:17-20)

- a. “we endeavored the more _____ and with great _____ to see you face to face...”
 - i. Endeavor: eagerness, zeal, diligence, striving/effort.

- b. “... but Satan _____ us...”

- i. 2:15-16...
- ii. If the word of God is your most _____ possession, then keeping it from someone is the lowest form of _____.
- c. 2:19, For what is our _____ or _____ or _____ of boasting... before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?"
 - i. 1 Cor. 3:10-15
 - ii. Paul's ministry has its _____ in and takes its _____ from the end of the age.

2. Desperate Measures. (3:1-5)

- a. 3:2, "and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to _____ and _____ you in your faith..."
- b. 3:3-4, "For you yourselves know that we are _____ for this... we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer _____, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know.
 - i. John 15:20

For Family Discussion

Break down the big idea:

The church was created to work as a unified body of unique disciples... *how would you explain that in your own words or with your own experiences?*

...and each disciple was created to work as a unique part of the unified church. *How is that encouraging/uplifting? Where do you see your part in the bigger picture?*

Read 1 Corinthians 12.

What does that tell you about the need for the church to gather?

What do you miss most when you are unable to be with other Christians for a period of time?

What obstacles (beyond Covid) keep us from gathering?
Consider obstacles specifically for each member of the family.

Discussion Questions

Read 1 and 2 Thessalonians again. What overarching truths are beginning to stand out to you, after several readings?

How would you describe Paul's feelings for the church, and why does he long so earnestly to be with them face-to-face?
Put another way, why is letter-writing not sufficient for him?

Just as the persecution of the church separated Paul from the Thessalonians against his will, Covid has separated the church at times over the last few months, limiting the believers' ability to gather, either for worship or fellowship. What have you seen as the consequences of that separation?

What "desperate measures" might Paul suggest for the church today? How might he write this same letter to the Covid-scattered church?

How is "fellowship" different from "just hanging out?" How can you intentionally "establish and exhort" other believers during your social time together?

This Week: Intentionally look for opportunities to uplift, encourage and challenge your fellow disciples in their faith. Social time doesn't have to outright exclude Godly edification.

Pray Together

Lord, Thank you for the church. Thank you that we don't have to face this world and our mission to make disciples alone. Thank you for surrounding us with fellow disciples. God, give us perspective to appreciate our time together as Christ-followers and help us to make the most of the time we have together.