



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

1, 2 Thessalonians Sermon Series

Supports Session 12: Praying

Sermon Title: Praise God!

Passage: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Connection to 2 Thessalonians 2:13–3:5

Believers are called to pray for one another as a means of strengthening one another. This message calls for hope and a blessing for the church.

Introduction/Opening

In life's difficult times, we need to remain joyful. We know that life is tough in this broken world, yet we know that God is good, merciful, and perfect. He is loving, caring, and gracious.

Such is the message that we see in Paul's letter to the Thessalonians. They endured an enormous amount of persecution. They lived day to day through temptations and difficulties. Yet Paul, in his writings inspired by the Holy Spirit, gave them encouragement to pray, and in this moment, to praise God for who He is and what He is all about.

His blessing upon the people is a general blessing but unique toward God. It is a reminder that even when we are afraid, we belong to the One who we can turn to. This is why we praise God!

Outline

1. Praise God for Christ's grace (v. 16).
 - a. God's grace is because of God's love.
 - i. God loves His creation and His people.
 - ii. See Ephesians 1:3-7; Ephesians 2:4-5; 2 John 3.
 - b. God's grace brings endless encouragement.
 - i. God's endless encouragement comes through His Spirit and His people.
 - ii. His Spirit: John 14:16-17; Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 1:17-19
 - iii. His people: John 13:34-35; John 15:9-12; Galatians 6:2
 - c. God's grace reminds us of His precious hope.
 - i. Because of God's grace, we have the gift of salvation.
 - ii. See Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 1:9.
2. Praise God for Christ's provision (v. 17).
 - a. He refreshes our hearts.
 - i. God's example, given to Israel: Exodus 31:16-17
 - ii. God has promised His refreshment: Jeremiah 31:10-14.
 - iii. Even martyrs will find refreshment in Him: Revelation 7:15-17.

- b. He strengthens our walk.
 - i. Through His work: Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 3:14-19
 - ii. Through His Word: 1 Timothy 4:6-7; 2 Timothy 3:12-17
 - iii. Through His cross: Romans 1:16-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Conclusion

And this is what we praise God for: sending His Son. At the end of the day, it is all about God and His glory. We praise God for who He is and what He has done and even what He is going to do. No matter our circumstances, we can praise God.

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