

A vibrant, multi-colored perspective of a hallway. The walls and floor are illuminated with a spectrum of colors including purple, blue, green, yellow, and red, creating a sense of depth and movement. In the center of the hallway, a piece of torn, brown cardboard is placed on the floor. A small, white, rectangular piece of paper is tucked under the cardboard. The text "THE LIVING END" is printed in white, bold, capital letters on the cardboard.

**THE
LIVING
END**

1 THESSALONIANS

‘May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.’

- 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 -

1 THESSALONIANS: THE LIVING END

1 Thessalonians is a profound and insightful letter written by the apostle Paul to the early Christian community in Thessalonica. This letter is a treasure trove of wisdom, encouragement, and practical guidance for believers, making it a valuable resource for our spiritual growth and understanding of God's word.

One of the of Paul's earliest letters, 1 Thessalonians offers us a glimpse into the thoughts and concerns of the early Christian church. It also gives us a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by these first-century believers and how Paul's teachings helped them navigate their faith journey.

We will see Paul's heartfelt affection for the Thessalonian believers as he rejoices in their faith, love, and endurance in the midst of persecution and adversity. We hear about Paul's pastoral care, deep concern, and tender encouragement as he strengthens and guides this young congregation in their walk with Christ. Paul also provides profound insights into the second coming of Christ, offering comfort to those who are grieving and hope to those who are weary.

As we journey through these five chapters of 1 Thessalonians, we will uncover valuable lessons for today's world that will equip us to live out our faith in a manner pleasing to God and encouraging to fellow believers.

So, let us embark on this journey through 1 Thessalonians, seeking to deepen our understanding of God's Word and allowing its timeless truths to shape our lives as modern-day disciples of Christ.

Every blessing,

Rev'd Christopher Bate
Holy Spirit Algester



WEEK 1

Warming up:

Which people are you particularly thankful for in your life? Why are you thankful for them?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1. Who are the authors of this letter?
2. Why are Paul, Silas, and Timothy thankful for the church in Thessalonica?
3. In v.3, what causes the Thessalonians to work, labour and endure?
4. In vv.4 & 7, how did the Thessalonians receive and welcome the gospel?
5. When Paul, Silas, and Timothy were originally in Thessalonica during Paul's second missionary journey, they and the first members of the church there were persecuted and suffered. Read Acts 17:1-9. What happened to them?
6. For a small, persecuted church a long way from Jerusalem, how do you think they felt to know that they are a model for all believers and that their faith is known everywhere?
7. In vv.9-10, what do we know about the believers in Thessalonica?

Rubber hits the road: .

Even though we are a small church in a country where Christianity is declining; how can our faith, love and hope encourage other believers both near and far?



Warming up:

Has anyone ever tried to peddle a product to you with selfish motives? What was the result?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

1. How does Paul feel about his previous visit to Thessalonica?
2. What can we learn from this passage about the way Paul conducted his ministry?
3. What does v.4 tell us about Paul's focus in his ministry?
4. What do vv.8-12 tell us about how Paul conducted his ministry?
5. How can this passage inform and shape the way we serve and lead people in church?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

1. How does Paul feel about the Thessalonians? How have they received the word of God?
2. What has happened to the people since they became Christians?
3. What does Paul long for in vv.17-19?
4. What does this passage show us about the importance of relationships in the church today?
5. How can this passage teach us to discern the difference between the true Gospel and a gospel peddled for profit?
6. How are we to respond to opposition to the Christian faith today?

Rubber hits the road:

How can we encourage one another to 'live a life worthy of God' this week?



WEEK 3

Warming up:

Has there ever been a time when you were worried about someone but couldn't go see them? How did you feel?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 3

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. Why did Paul send Timothy back to Thessalonica in vv.1-5?
3. What concern did Paul have for the Thessalonian church?
4. What did Paul think might undercut the faith of the new believers at Thessalonica?
5. In vv.6-7, how had Paul's work among the Thessalonians fared during his absence?
6. How were the Thessalonians an encouragement to Paul?
7. How might the Thessalonians' steadfastness in the face of persecution apply to challenges we face today?
8. How might Paul's joy over the Thessalonians' faith encourage us in our spiritual journey?
9. How can the Thessalonians' perseverance inspire Christians facing challenges today?
10. In vv.11-13, what did Paul pray would grow and prosper among the Thessalonians?

Rubber hits the road:

What steps can you and we as a church take to ensure that our faith remains steadfast, like the Thessalonians', in the face of adversity?



WEEK 4

Warming up:

What sorts of things do you say to someone when you are trying to encourage them?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

1. In v.1, what does Paul say about how the Thessalonians are living? What else does he encourage them to do?
2. Why is it important that Paul's instructions about Christian living come by the authority of Jesus?
3. What does it mean to be sanctified?
4. In vv.3-7, what reasons does Paul give for avoiding sexual immorality?
5. In vv.9, who taught the Thessalonians to love each other? What else does he encourage them to do?
6. In vv.11-12, what does Paul say that their ambition should be? Why?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. Why shouldn't the Thessalonians grieve those who have died?
2. How would you summarise Paul's explanation of Jesus' return in vv.14-17?
3. What encouragement would these words give to believers?

Rubber hits the road:

How does the knowledge of Jesus' return impact the way that you live each day?



**THE
LIVING
END**

WEEK 5

Warming up:

Do you have anyone in your life who is preparing for something big in the future? How do they go about their preparations?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1. In v.1, why do you think Paul writes 'about times and dates we don't need to write to you'?
2. What analogies does Paul use for the 'day of the Lord'?
3. What are some of the contrasts drawn in vv.4-11? What are we being told about how we should live?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-28

1. In these final verses Paul gives words of encouragement. How many encouragements can you find?
2. Who are vv.12-14 about? What does this mean for us today?
3. What are the parallels between Jesus' teaching and Paul's? (see Matthew 5:43-48; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 6:27-36; John 13:34)
4. What is Paul teaching about the Holy Spirit and prophecy in vv.19-21? How can we respond when someone says they've heard from God?

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

1. What do vv.23-28 tell us about how we are to care for each other?
2. What is sanctification and what value does it hold for Christians?
3. A 'holy kiss' was a form of greeting in the ancient world. How can we greet people in a way that conveys God's love but doesn't freak them out or give them the wrong idea today?

Rubber hits the road:

What are some applications that you can take from our 1 Thessalonians series that will help you live in preparation for Jesus' return?

'May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.'

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 -



Sunnybank
Anglican Church



HOLY SPIRIT
ALGESTON

Anglican
Church
Dalby