

THE GOSPEL OF **HOPE** IN UNCERTAIN TIMES: A FRESH LOOK AT THESSALONIANS

THREE PRAYERS TO GET US FROM HERE TO THERE
1 Thessalonians 1:1-3; 3:11-13 and 5:23-24

INTRODUCTION:

The New Testament letter 1 Thessalonians is only 5 chapters long and is held together with 3 prayers: one at the beginning, one in the middle and one at the end. (1:1-3; 3:11-13 and 5:23-24). They are the kind of prayers which will get us from here to there, and especially when "there" means in the presence of the returned King.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who is someone from your university years you remember with thanks? Who is someone from your early years as a Christian that you remember with thanks? Why?
2. When was there a time you prayed for the opportunity to be able to go somewhere (maybe it felt like you were being "blocked") or for someone to come to you? What happened?
3. Who is someone in your life right now who could use a "little more love". Someone who needs more of your time, someone who needs for you to listen to them?
4. From the Bible's perspective, the "heart" is the place where we think – it is the center of our thought life. It is also the place where our emotions are formed, and choices are made. How do you "strengthen" your heart? How would you "guard" your heart? (Proverbs 4:23)
5. What is one area of your life where God is asking you to have confidence in Him (and believe that He will do it!)?

NEXT UP

Praying for others is a key way to experience the grace of God in our own lives. Being thankful for our community of faith is empowering and pleases God the Father. "Faith Hope and Love" should become more than just words on a Christian poster but the building blocks for an outward focused life of action and service.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love"

1 Corinthians 13:13