



Static – Master
Sermon Discussion Questions – Oct. 30

Scripture Passages:

1 Thessalonians 2:7, 11

7 but we were gentle among you like a mother caring for her little children. . . 11 we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,

1 Thessalonians 2:8

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

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 4:1-12

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. 3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; 6 and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The

Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. 7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit. 9 Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. 10 And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, 11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Philippians 3:13-14

13 . . . I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Warm Up:

1. I love a good laugh and enjoy hearing the awkward experiences we find ourselves in sometimes in life. What is an embarrassing experience you have had that you now laugh at?

Discussion:

1. Pastor Tom begins by sharing about love and how love will lead you to make whatever sacrifices, changes, or overcome any challenges.
How might you describe love to someone else? What have your experiences with love been?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8;11. The gospel message is one rooted in love this is evident here in this passage.
How has your interaction with the gospel changed how you now see or understand love?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13. We read here that God's desire and love for us is to become holy, to become more Christlike.
What is holiness? How have you seen love and holiness intertwine?
4. "If you never understand the Father's love for you, then you will never comprehend what the Father asks of you"- Pastor Tom.
What are your initial reactions to this statement? How might understanding you are beloved first, shape the way you understand God's call for you?
5. Read the beginning of 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2. God's will for us is to be sanctified which is everything that God does in us to make us more like Christ. Pastor Tom continues to explain that "sanctification begins when we accept Jesus as our Savior and then we begin a life trajectory of loving relationship with him. We will finally be fully like him when we are fully with him."
How might our being with God shape everything about us? What does it look like for you to be with God?
6. Read the remainder of the 1 Thessalonians passage verses 3-12. Paul lays out three areas of growth which are avoid sexual impurity, treating other Christians in a way that is pleasing to God and having integrity in our lives.

In this static season, how have you interacted with these three areas that Paul encourages us to grow in? What is one area where you might need to grow in?

7. Read Philippians 3:13-14. Paul encourages us to continue the race and press forward toward the goal and prize which is to become more Christlike.

How might we encourage one another to run the race in the midst of our static season?

8. "You are the guardian of the human spirit. You have the power to manipulate and coerce if you want to. You can avoid and ignore if you choose, or you can choose to make a positive difference in the lives of the people around you. You can choose to ignore and inspire. You can lift and appeal to all that is good and honorable and holy. You can remind fallible and finite people around you that they hold their lives and their callings as a sacred trust. That their best efforts matter and their worst failures will be redeemed. This is all because of the crucified one who shouldered the burdens of the whole human race who rose again and will come back one day to honor all that is good and right that has gone wrong"- John Ortberg.

Our lives are a witness to those around us, how might the quote shape how you pursue your relationship with God and others?

Next Steps:

1. Start with a reminder of the gospel (The good news of what God has done through the person and work of Jesus Christ, especially what he accomplished through his death, burial, and resurrection). How have you personally experienced the power and love of gospel?
2. How might the gospel continue to shape you?
3. What area or areas of growth might God be calling you to?
4. How can we continue to run the race and encourage one another in becoming more Christlike?