

Believe, Live, and Share the Gospel

November 2, 2025

Welcome to the Beamsville Church of Christ Online Ministry. This week's message is titled, "Believe, Live, and Share the Gospel." Thank you to Ed, Aisha, Amy, and Don for being part of the service. The scripture reading is 1 Thessalonians 1 verses 2 to 7. Happy birthday this week to Heather and to Jo.

Scripture Reading

First Thessalonians, we always thank God for all of you and continuously mention you in our prayers. We remember before God and Father your work produced by your faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you because our gospel comes to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord. For you welcome the message and the mindset of serve suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you become became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

Sermon

Good morning, everyone. Thank you very much for being with us today. The Apostle Paul highlights most of the New Testament epistles. And we're going to notice this today. But there are a couple of scriptures, and I'm not sure books of the Bible that that we read very often. Let me just ask this question. You don't have to respond. When was the last time you read the book of First Thessalonians and Second Thessalonians? Yeah, me neither. Long time. It's not it's not a book that we necessarily would just gravitate toward. But it's a wonderful, wonderful book.

Thessalonika is where this is located in this sermon. And the population of this little area 200,000 people. Not in other words, they're jammed in there. So when the Apostle Paul comes walking through, as he did, it was not like, please come to the church, you're going to hear a sermon. No, that that never happened. The preachers would go out into the world and share the Gospels share the teachings. So at this church that begins, people are starting to hear this news about Jesus Christ, that he was the Savior, that he died, that he was buried, but that he rose again. And it's not just that he rose again, but he can come and live in us. Well, how does he do that? By a demonstration of how he lived.

It's the fruit of the Spirit. How do you define Jesus? Well, he's love, and he's joy, and he's peace, and he's patient, and he's kind, and he's good, and so forth, and so forth, and so forth. All of those things that we want to be, without having to work hard at it, it was just him. That's how he lived his life. So how is he going to share all of this, these wonderful words to a population of 200,000 people? So there were some people that were helping him. But it seemed like for me anyway, as I'm reading this, people wanted to hear Paul. I mean, there were other people that they could listen to, but there was something about his words. And his words were strong. His words were true. And his story was a remarkable story, that he never believed in a Christ previously. But that Christ came to live in him. And I suppose that's true for all of us. Even growing up, maybe in a church, we look around as children and say, "What's going on? How does this even work?" Well, to know that God knew us before we were born, and that he lives with us now, right now, today. And I don't know, it just still gives me some goosebumps to know that all of us are standing here or sitting. And God is with us.

I'll never leave you. I'll never forsake you. I'm always with you. Sometimes we wonder about all those things. But it's his reality. So anyway, Paul is trying to say to this church, we always remember you and we thank God for you. And we mention in your prayers all of the time, because we're inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. He says, "So for we know, brothers and sisters, loved by God," listen to this, "that he has chosen us because our gospel came not simply with words, but with power, with the Holy Spirit, with deep conviction." And that's how we become Christians. We believe it. It's not just the words, or it's, "How do I do to be a Christian, be baptized?" Okay, no, no.

Do we understand who God has chosen us to be in this world today? And won't it be wonderful, as is promised, that one day we will see him face to face. So he says, "I give you this message with joy, and that the Holy Spirit is always with us." And then he says, "As apostles of Christ, we could have been a burden to you, but we aren't. We're not asking you to go out every day and try to share that gospel. I know you have to work, you have to make a living," is what he's saying. "But we loved you so much, we don't want to burden you, for we want to preach the gospel of God."

So he says this, "We are witnesses of how holy and righteous and blameless we are because we believe the gospel. For you, for we know," and I love this, "for you know, as a father and a mother and their children, they are encouraging one another to live lives worthy of God," and then listen to this, even though written 2,000 years ago, "urging you who God calls you." "To his kingdom and his glory." This is what he gives us. Well, how much did it cost? Cost him everything. As a mother and father would do for a child, and we are children of God. That's who we are. We must remember this love that God is with us. So he says, "May the Lord make your love increase, overflowing for each other, and for everyone else, just as ours does. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy as our Lord Jesus comes one day with his holy angels." Won't that be something to see? You know, you read it, you go, "Okay, that sounds good." But no, it's a promise of God.

And so in this book, 1st and 2nd Thessalonians, again, a book that we don't read very often, these are these wonderful, magical, new things grabbing us, make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders. That's Len Graham. That's Len Graham. Some of you remember Len Graham. Just this quiet, quiet man. But when you sit and visit with him, oh, what a book of knowledge he was. He was humble and kind and helpful. Simple things, yet profound things.

God did not appoint us to suffer anger and wrath, but he has appointed us to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore to encourage one another and to build each other up. And then he says this, even though it's difficult to do, be joyful. Always try, pray continually. Yes. Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. But Lord, I'm not so sure you understand my circumstances. He understands our circumstances. He promises he's with us every moment. And so he said, avoid evil as best as you can. And then he says, may God himself, the God of all 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. And that's the end of First Thessalonians.

But now I'm going to go to Second Thessalonians and he's just going to continue with this effervescent joy, even when troubles. We always want to thank God for you brothers and sisters and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more and love everyone for as much as you can. Therefore, among God's churches, we boast about your perseverance. We boast about your faith. We even boast about the persecutions and trials that you're enduring. All this is evidence of God's judgment as it is right. God is just. And then listen to this and he will give relief to you. We pray that at the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we would be glorified in you and through and through according to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And then again, he says, I'm not just saying that everything is rosy. Everything is wonderful. Now there are people who don't like faith and they don't like our faith. And they can sort of interfere on occasion. God says, yeah, that's called Satan. We have the devil in this world. He wants to do everything the opposite of Jesus, simple things, but we sometimes forget. So he says this, stand firm, stand firm, no matter what. We ought to always thank God, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because from the very beginning, now listen to this from the very, from the very beginning, God chose you. You are not a mistake. Even before you were born, God chose you and me. He knew the exact time and places where we would be born and where we live and where we live even right now.

God chose you. And because of that, to have belief in Jesus Christ and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. And there's many ways of doing that. It's not just preaching and it's not just teaching, but more than anything else, it's

living that example of love and joy and peace. And so at the end of that book, he says, finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us and pray that we will be delivered from evil people. We have confidence in the Lord that you will do well.

So this book is a powerful book. It's a reminder of God loving us more than we could ever imagine. And I love the way he closes this. May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. But then he goes on to say, and I'll finish with this. Be careful not to feel so comfortable that you're just blah. No, that's not what he wants.

Here's what he says. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you brothers and sisters to keep away from every brother or sister who is idle, who doesn't live according to the teachings that you've received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example that we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food that was outside of their situation. We did this because we do not have the right for such help, but we hear that there are some people among you who want to turn you away from Jesus. No, no. Brothers and sisters, never tire doing of what is good.

May the Lord of God himself give you peace and give you peace at all times in every way. May the Lord be with you all. And so this is the conclusion of the sermon. But now I say to you as we leave today. May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and especially throughout this week. The Lord be with you all. Amen.

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