

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Because our gospel came to you not simply with power, but with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. We were not looking for praise from

people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom

and glory. May he strengthen you with his power and holy Spirit when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones. It is God's will that you should be sanctified; that you should avoid sexual immorality. And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life. You should mind your own business and your hands, just as we told you. Brothers, you do not want

to be informed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. For God did not appoint us

Objectives: We want to get a good overview of 1 Thess. We want to see Jesus as Paul did—as the king who is worthy of our lives. We want to start to submit each area of our lives to Jesus.

Launch: Why do Christians experience persecution around the world? *Common answers may include a lack of democracy in different governments, a lack of education, lack of tolerance... perhaps ignorance fuels persecution. But the ultimate cause of religious persecution in the world today is people surrendering their hearts and lives to Jesus. The price for obedience may be different in different places, but persecution happens because Christ followers are making disciples and being “salt and light” to lost people.*

Explore & Apply Together:

Read Acts 16 & 17

Have someone summarize Paul’s travels in Acts 16 & 17.

- What do you learn about his relationship with the Thessalonians from ch. 2/3?
- What do you learn about ministry from this passage?
- In light of all he went through, why did Paul keep preaching?

Read Acts 17:1-9 (20)

- What did Paul do in Thessalonica? What verbs describe what He did? (He reasoned from the scriptures, explained and proved that the Christ had to suffer, he proclaimed Jesus, he said that there is another King—Jesus)

- What does each of these words mean?
- What can we learn about Paul’s approach to evangelism from these verses?
- What was his desired result? Why?
- How is your approach to ministry similar to Paul’s?
- What could change in your approach to evangelism to be more like Paul in this passage?
- How did the people respond? (25)
- Why would people get upset that they were preaching “another King, Jesus”? (*Caesar was the absolute sovereign power at the time. Paul was saying that Jesus was now the absolute sovereign power of the universe. At that time in history people had to follow the rule of Caesar in every area of their life, including their worship. Paul was saying that now, everyone needed to follow Jesus in every area of his or her life.*)

- What is the “Caesar” of our culture? What is that thing that if we said- “Jesus is King and _____ is not” that people would be disturbed? *Comfort? Money? Status? Tolerance?*

Paul got run out of Thessalonica by people that hated him so much, that they chased him to the next town to hate on him there! The reason they hated him was that he said, “Jesus was King and Caesar was not”. He was preaching a subversive message that would alter their whole life. Do you ever wonder if people are ok with us, because we allow them to keep other Kings that are above Jesus? Do you ever wonder if we unintentionally say that you can keep your other Kings and Jesus will be your get out of hell free card?

I think the Kingship of Jesus is the fundamental issue of our day. Our training and strategic plans do not matter if Jesus is not the King of our lives. Our training in ministry skill does not matter if Jesus is not the King of our lives.

We will worship what we adore the most. To allow Jesus to be “King” we will need to change what we worship... *What King are you tempted to worship other than Jesus?*

- What can we do to help one another worship Jesus as King moment by moment this semester?
- What could it look like for Jesus to be King of your life this semester?
Psychologists identify at least 4 “drives” that motivate us (Comfort, Approval, Control and Power).
- Which of these get in the way of you allowing Jesus to be “King” of your life? How?
- What can we do to help one another allow Jesus to be King of our lives?

Homework: Homework #2