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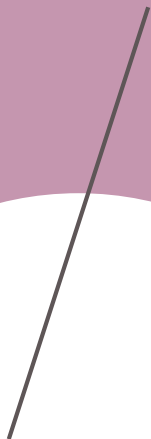
# THESSALONIANS

sermon series 2020

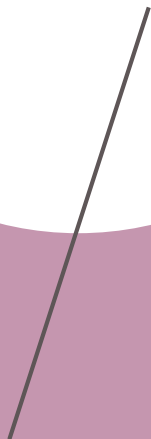
DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

PARRAMATTA BAPTIST CHURCH

03



C H A P T E R



03

# 56 to strengthen and encourage

## READ:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 3:1-13.

## REFLECT:

*"We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith" (3:2)*

There are many days where some extra faith strengthening and encouraging is very welcome! Paul and his companions didn't just hope that the Thessalonian believers were doing okay, they took action. Sending Timothy was a proactive choice meant to strengthen and encourage their faith.

## TAKE ACTION:

Take time today and reach out to someone with the goal of helping to strengthen and encourage their faith.

*Personal action:* Consider what you could do today that would strengthen and encourage your own faith.

# so no one would be unsettled

## READ:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 3:1-13.

## REFLECT:

*"so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them." (3:3)*

Paul wrote (and sent Timothy) to assure the Thessalonians that the trials they experienced were to be expected, and to not allow their circumstances to unsettle them in their faith. Following Jesus does not make us immune to hardship. However, our faith in Him can make all the difference when we are in the midst of hardship.

## TAKE ACTION:

Pray for someone you know who is having to count the cost of following Jesus at the moment.

*Personal action:* If you are feeling a little unsettled in your faith yourself right now, reach out to another believer who can help carry your burden.

# we also long to see you”

## READ:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 3:1-13.

## REFLECT:

*"He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you" (3:6)*

It has been 6 months now since we were able to physically gather together as a church community. One thing we have missed so much is the blessing of being together in person with each other.

For Paul and the Thessalonian believers, the very thought of each other brought up pleasant memories, and increased their desire to be together again.

## TAKE ACTION:

Recall to mind the great people of our church family and thank God for each other. Then phone, send a text message, or organize a catch up with those you haven't seen for far too long.

# 56 encouraged about you

## READ:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 3:1-13.

## REFLECT:

*"Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith." (3:7)*

Have you ever looked to the faith of another and drawn strength for your own faith and faithfulness?

For Paul and his companions, the vibrancy of the Thessalonians' faith brought them encouragement. It no doubt also served to strengthen their resolve to live for Jesus.

## TAKE ACTION:

Take a moment today to simply thank those whose examples encourage your own faith in Christ.

*Further action:* Follow the link to read the following blog from Open Doors - <https://tinyurl.com/yy4bxx9n>

# 56 may your love increase

## READ:

1 Thessalonians Chapter 3:1-13.

## REFLECT:

*"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you." (3:12)*

What a beautiful desire and prayer to bless the Thessalonian believers with! A community characterized by love. A community where each person's actions and interactions overflow from love.

This is Jesus' vision for his church: that we would be known as his disciples by the love we have for each other.

## TAKE ACTION:

Pray that God would increase your love for his people (there's a prayer God loves to answer!).

*Deeper action:* Act on any promptings the Holy Spirit leads you to in response.