

## ULC Sermon Study Resource

*Face to Face: Christian to God*

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**Prayer:** Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

**Icebreaker:** What's your favorite springtime activity?

**Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 1:10

### Outline:

- I. The history of this letter (v1)
  - a. The context of the early church in Thessalonica was painful, dangerous and alienating.
  - b. Paul highlights that the church's true context is that they are God's people in Thessalonica, and nothing changes that.
- II. The heart of this letter (v2-6)
  - a. Faith, hope and love are fundamental to Paul's teachings about the Christian life.
  - b. Paul's letter celebrates the ways the Thessalonians are growing in faith, hope and love.  
**Q: Why does Paul attach action words to faith, hope, and love (v3)?**
- III. The hope of this letter (v10)
  - a. The ultimate hope of the Thessalonians is that whatever hardships, struggles, and persecution they face, a resurrected Jesus is coming to deliver them and heal the world.
  - b. Our hope is the same. Because of Easter and the empty tomb, Jesus is coming to deliver us and restore all things.  
**Q: Paul connects serving with waiting, something usually passive (v9-10). Why?**

### Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) What is your context?
- 2) Where do you see faith in your life? Hope? Love?
- 3) What is the gospel doing in your life that's worth celebrating?
- 4) What hardships are you facing right now?
- 5) How do you remind yourself of your ultimate hope?

### Suggestions for further study:

- 1 Corinthians 1:1-3 **Q: How is this similar to the greeting in 1 Thessalonians?**
- 1 Corinthians 13 **Q: Why does Paul consider love to be most important?**
- 1 Peter 1:3-9 **Q: What does it mean that our hope is "living"?**

**Closing Prayer:** *"Lord Jesus, we thank you that because of you we know that our true context and home is in you; is in the Father; is in the God who has chosen us and called us to be his own. So Jesus, we pray that you would turn our eyes to you and find our hope in you. We thank you for the victory of Easter and we look forward to the day when your ultimate victory will be realized in this world, when you will bring about complete healing and restoration. In the meantime, Lord, may that inspire us to continue to grow in faith, hope, and love. We pray this all in your holy name, Jesus. Amen."*