

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Face to Face: Word to Hearers

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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 are you most excited to do with other people when we can get together again?

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

Outline:

- I. The remedy of the Word of God (v13-14)
 - a. As the Thessalonians heard the gospel from Paul, the revelation of the Creator God was speaking to their very hearts.
 - b. In every moment of love, grace and patience, we bear witness to the work God is doing in our hearts through Jesus Christ.
Q: What "word of God" did the Thessalonians receive?
- II. Shapes our present struggles (v17)
 - a. When we receive the Word of God, we are bound to our brothers and sisters in the faith.
 - b. In this painful time of alienation, we should look to see what God is pointing us towards.
Q: Why does Paul desire to see the Thessalonians so much?
- III. Orients our future hope
 - a. Paul's future is oriented entirely around investing deeply and passionately in his brothers and sisters in Christ.
 - b. As Christians, we belong to each other through Jesus Christ.
Q: What is Paul's "hope or joy or crown of boasting"?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Do you miss the physical presence of other Christians?
- 2) What is God stripping away right now? What's he pointing you towards?
- 3) Have you had someone care for you like Paul does the Thessalonians?
- 4) How have you invested in your brothers and sisters in Jesus?
- 5) Is your future oriented around relationship with fellow Christians?

Suggestions for further study:

- Romans 12:9-21 **Q: What are the marks of a true Christian?**
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-20 **Q: What is it that unites us as Christians?**
- Ephesians 4:1-7 **Q: How should we treat our fellow Christians?**

Closing Prayer:

*"Earth might be groaning
But Heaven is still singing
And I am beginning
To hum along with hope."*

- Tanner Olson, Written to Speak