The Letters to the Thessalonians



Sermon Outline

Key Verses

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 ESV
23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1. **God's Design for Community Relationships (vv. 12-15)**
   - atmosphere of love and respect for spiritual leaders
   - atmosphere of encouragement and support for those in need
   - atmosphere of accountability for brothers and sisters in Christ

2. **God's Design for Community Virtues (vv. 16-18)**
   - rejoice always
   - pray without ceasing
   - give thanks in all circumstances

3. **God's Design for Community Worship (vv. 19-22)**
   - open to the Holy Spirit
   - responsive to the Word
   - grounded in truth

FINISHED WORK IN PROGRESS

November 8 Discussion Guide

Opening Thought

As Paul brings his first letter to the Thessalonians to a close, he gives us a picture of what life together as God's people should look like. His instructions are challenging, perhaps even overwhelming. But tucked into the middle of those instructions is a wonderful promise: "He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it." In Christ, we are God's finished work, and yet we are still His work in progress.

Dig Deeper

- Where do you find yourself most aware of being a work in progress and in need of God's sanctifying work?
- What are some practical ways a congregation can demonstrate love, honor, and respect toward those who serve in spiritual leadership?
- How can we cultivate joy in the Lord even when our circumstances are painful or disappointing?
- What practical habits could help you become more prayerful throughout the day?
- How can we maintain an openness to God's leading while also testing everything against Scripture? What might this look like in everyday church life?

Conclusion

God has called us to be a community marked by love, respect, encouragement, support, and accountability. He has called us to be a people who rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances. He has called us to be a worshiping community that welcomes the work of the Holy Spirit while also exercising discernment. What can you do this week to contribute to MCA becoming all that God intended it to be?