The Letters to the Thessalonians



Sermon Notes

Key Verse

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
-1 Thessalonians 4:14

Main Points

1. **God does not call us to a stagnant faith, but to grow in our sanctification.**
2. **Christ's sure return gives comfort to those who mourn.**
3. **The coming Day of the Lord reminds us to stay vigilant in our faith.**

The Day of the Lord

November 1st
Discussion Guide

Opening Thought

In the scripture we covered today, Paul speaks about the return of Christ. This event is often referred to as "The Day of the Lord". For the unbeliever Christ's return is a day of fear and judgment, but for God's people it is a day of joy and comfort. Christ's return is imminent, and is a constant reminder for his people to make themselves ready for the day when God will dwell with his people once again.

Ice Breaker

1. What words, emotions, images, or ideas come to mind when you think of the return of the Lord?

Dig Deeper

1. In 1 Thessalonians 4:3 Paul teaches that it is the will of God for His people to grow in sanctification. In your own words, what is sanctification? How does it differ from justification?
2. Why is sanctification important?
3. In 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, Paul urges the church in Thessalonica to keep loving one another with a brotherly love. Why does brotherly love seem to matter for their public witness? Why does it matter for ours?
4. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, what is the main point that Paul is trying to make?
5. How does the reality of the Christians' union with Christ comfort the church when we mourn the death of our people?
6. In 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10, Paul describes The Day of the Lord as coming like a thief in the night, and so reminds the church to "keep awake and be sober". What can we do to help our families to stay vigilant in their faith instead of being lulled to sleep by the cares of the world?

Closing

Jesus is coming back! Let each of us stay vigilant in preparation for His sure return. May we all receive comfort in knowing that one day we will surely dwell with our God again!