

ST. MATTHEW'S U.F.W.B. CHURCH
400 Dixwell Avenue
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1 & 2 Thessalonians March Bible Readings



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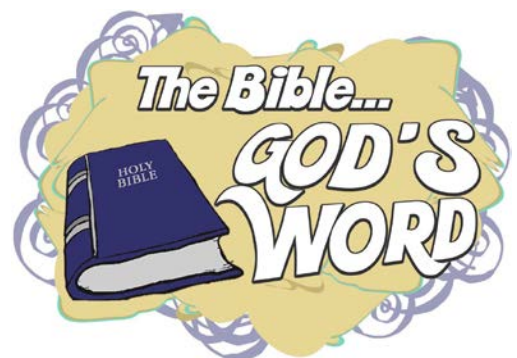
March 10, 2019

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Lady Hardy and I are so happy to be embarking on this reading plan as a church family. Enclosed you will find it neatly organized by date, daily scripture and an end of chapter reflection. I pray you will commit to this daily process. Let's take this journey. To know God is to know His WORD. I am looking forward to us discovering new things about the Lord and His church as we read together. My prayer is that your faith and knowledge will increase and that you will grow greatly. Read and reflect and watch God show up more in your life. This is a wonderful way to spend time with God.

Encouragingly,

Pastor Kevin C. Hardy



1 THESSALONIANS READING PLAN AND FOCUS QUESTIONS

March 11 **Theme - Greetings from Paul**
 Reading - 1 Thessalonians 1:1

March 12 **Theme - The Faith of the Thessalonian Believers**
 Reading - 1 Thessalonians 1:2-6

March 13 **Reading - 1 Thessalonians 1:7-10**

In v. 3, (a) What are “works” and how do they produce faith?

(b) What is “labor” and how is it affected by love?

(c) Why does hope build endurance?

In v. 4-5, Paul describes how the message of the gospel came to them.

(a) What is the message of the gospel? (Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:1-10)

(b) How was the message delivered?

(c) Guilt makes us run away from God and conviction makes us run towards Him. Why is that important to remember?

What can change in you to become a better witness to who Christ is?

Prayer focus:

Conviction from the Spirit, being a better model of who Christ is, being defined by faith, hope & love, staying sensitive to how God is speaking to you.

March 14 **Theme - Paul Remembers His Visit**
 Reading - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-9

March 15 **Reading - 1 Thessalonians 2:10-16**

March 16 **Theme - Their Conversion**
 Reading - 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

March 17 **Theme - Longing to See them**
 Reading - 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

By what illustration did Paul compare his gentleness among them? (v.7)

For what cause did Paul thank God? (v. 13)

How long did Paul say it had been since he had seen the people from the church at Thessalonica? (v. 17)

What hindered Paul from coming again unto the Thessalonians? (vs.17-18)

PASTOR'S SUNDAY MESSAGE:

Scripture: _____

Topic: _____

Message Overview:

Things to Study Further:

March 18 **Theme – Concern for their Faith**
 Reading – 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5

March 19 **Theme – Encouraged by Timothy**
 Reading – 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

March 20 **Theme – Prayer for the Church**
 Reading – 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

1. Paul lays out some concerns as to why he felt things could've gotten unsettled while they were gone. What were those concerns?

(a) In 2:18 and then in 3:5 he mentions Satan/tempter. Why do you think Satan “blocked” him? Why was he concerned with temptation?

(b) How does temptation affect you? What are some of the biggest ways Satan tempts you?

(c) When do you feel most tempted and what is your defense? (read Ephesians 6; Psalm 119:11; Psalm 25:15; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Proverbs 4:14-15; Matthew 5:29; Colossians 3:2)

2. How does Paul pray for the Thessalonians in vs. 10-14?

Prayer Focus:

Using the answers to question 2, pray the same way for our community.

- March 21** **Theme – Plea for Purity**
 Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
- March 22** **Theme – A Brotherly and Orderly Life**
 Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
- March 23** **Theme – The Comfort of Christ’s Coming**
 Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Why does Paul ‘s tone seem to change in this chapter?

Paul says that they have instructed them how to please God. Why is it a good idea to live a life that is pleasing to God?

(a) What would change if you did that in every single area of your life?

(b) What happens when we “get off course”?

(c) Who do you have in your life that will help pull you back in? Why is it tough to build relationships with people that you can have that type of accountability?

What is the hope of Christians whether dead or alive? (vs.14-18)

Prayer Focus:

Read Colossians 3:12-17 and pray through each characteristic of a Christian

March 24

Prayer Focus: Those who are grieving, those who struggle with fear, worry, opportunities to share hope of Jesus

March 25 **Theme – The Day of the Lord**
 Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

March 26 **Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8**

March 27 **Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11**

March 28 **Theme – Paul’s Final Advice**
 Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

March 29 **Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22**

March 30 **Theme – Paul’s Final Greetings**
 Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

How does Paul describe what the coming of Jesus will be like? Why do those descriptions matter?

In v. 8 what does Paul describe as our defense?

(a) Why are faith and love our breastplate?

(b) Why does salvation give us hope?

Paul frequently talks about encouragement. Why does he want believers to encourage each other? Why did the Thessalonians need encouragement?

(a) What ways can you be an encouragement to others?

(b) Do you have examples of how someone's encouragement to you helped share who you are?

Prayer Focus:

Spend time being thankful for what God has done in your life, for the people that He has placed in your life

March 31

Why is patience with the timid, weak, or idle so difficult? (v. 14)

What prohibits you from being patient with people?

In v. 15 he says to not repay evil for evil. Why does "killing people with kindness" work so well for them and for us?

Prayer Focus:

Seeing people through God's eyes, sensitivity to the Spirit's conviction, humility with what God is using you for

PASTOR'S SUNDAY MESSAGE:

Scripture: _____

Topic: _____

Message Overview:

Things to Study Further:

2 THESSALONIANS READING PLAN AND FOCUS QUESTIONS

- April 1** **Theme – Greetings from Paul**
 Reading – 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2
- April 2** **Theme – Encouragement during Persecution**
 Reading – 2 Thessalonians 1:3-6
- April 3** **Reading – 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**
- April 4** **Reading – 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**

Describe the relationship Paul has with the Thessalonians in vs. 1-4

In vs. 5-10 Paul describes a pretty terrible scene. What should Christians feel about this? How should this change our thoughts towards unbelieving friends or family?

In v. 12, Paul states the purpose of life. What is it?

- a. How is this reflected in you?
- b. Is there any area of your life that needs to change significantly so you can begin to chase after the right things?

Prayer Focus:

For those who are suffering and pray for their perseverance and yours as well

April 5 **Theme – Event prior to the Lord's Second Coming**
Reading – 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

April 6 **Reading – 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12**

April 7 **Theme – Believers Should Stand Firm**
Reading – 2 Thessalonians 2:13-16

Go back and read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:3 and detail what Paul says the coming of Jesus will be like. What details has he added here in chapter 2?

- a. After going through all the little ways Paul describes what is going to happen, do you see any of these things at work today?

How does Paul describe the "Man of Lawlessness?"

How will the Lawless one deceive people?
In vs. 9-12 why will some people be ready to be deceived?

What areas in our world today seem out of control (both local and global)? What are some ideas to help change that?

Prayer Focus:

God's power, his holiness, his knowledge of everything

PASTOR'S SUNDAY MESSAGE:

Scripture: _____

Topic: _____

Message Overview:

Things to Study Further:

April 8 **Theme – Pray for Us**
 Reading – 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

April 9 **Theme – Warning Against Idleness**
 Reading – 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

April 10 **Theme – Benediction**
 Reading – 2 Thessalonians 3:16-18

In v. 4 Paul begins to talk about obedience again. How does obedience increase our faith, love, hope and prevent us from getting lazy?

a. How does that building our foundation?

God desires that churches grown in number, which means the gospel is reaching people, and in obedience, which means the gospel is penetrating the hearts of the listeners and digging deep into the core of who they are. Why is it important to remember these two things in everything that we do?

In vs. 6-15 Paul's tone changes. Why? What are all of the things he is addressing?

How does Paul say the church should react to those who are lazy or sinning?

a. Do you see this type of reaction a lot? Why or why not?

b. What is the importance of gracious accountability?

How can you help others who may lean towards or are flat out lazy?

Prayer Focus:

Strength and perseverance in what you do, staying away from laziness



The **Power** of
Prayer