

Sermon Supplement from September 17

Faithful Ministry In The Meantime | 1 Thess. 2:1-12

Warm Up: Where do you serve in ministry inside or outside the church? What drew you to that ministry?

Dig In – 4 Characteristics of Faithful Ministry in the Meantime

Read vv. 1-2 | Tenacity When It's Tough

- Talk about a time that ministry has been tough for you. What was your response?
- What do you learn from these verses that will help you have tenacity when ministry is hard?

Read vv. 3-6 | Trustworthy With The Gospel

- In what ways do you see Christian ministers using a false message, motives, or methods today?
- How do these verses help us discern the true from the false? What should we look for?
- How can you be a trustworthy minister of the Gospel?

Read vv. 7-8 | Tender Like a Mother

- This is an interesting word picture. What do you think Paul is getting at?
- How has someone encouraged you by sharing with you “not only the gospel of God but (their) own lives as well?”
- How might you encourage someone else by sharing your life with them?

Read vv. 9-12 | Tough Like a Father

- These verses talk about setting a tough example (9-10) and challenging others to a tough walk (11-12). Why are both important?
- How do you see the end times/“In the meantime” perspective come through in v. 12?

Apply

- Is there a new area of ministry that God might be calling you to? What's your next step?
- What have you learned from this study that will help you minister faithfully as you await the Lord's return?

(Bible Reading Guide and Resources on Other Side)

Weekly Bible Reading Guide – In order to help you engage with God’s Word and our Sunday sermons, we suggest using the exercises below as part of your personal Bible reading and study for the coming week.

Next Week’s Sermon Text - *1 Thessalonians 2:13-16*

Study Exercises (*use as you have time*)

1. Read the text at least 5 times (in different translations if possible)
2. Answer some basic investigative questions such as: *What are important terms or concepts? What is the tone? What is emphasized, repeated or related? Are there significant comparisons or contrasts? What verses or ideas jump out at you?*
3. Make a list of terms, people, places, or ideas that you need to research further? Use a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or digital resources to help you understand these.
4. In your own words, what is the big idea of this text?
5. Consult 1 or more of the resources listed below. How does this expand your understanding of the text?
6. Apply It: What are the major points of application from this text? How does what you have learned impact the way you think, feel, or act?

Resources

- A good Study Bible such as the ESV Study Bible, MacArthur Study Bible, Faithlife Study Bible (free app),
- Video Introduction: Watch The Bible Project summary videos for 1&2 Thessalonians
- Study Guide: [1&2 Thessalonians and Titus](#) MacArthur Bible Study Guide
- Basic Commentary: [1&2 Thessalonians For You](#) Ligon Duncan
- In-depth Commentary: [The Letters to the Thessalonians](#) Pillar New Testament Commentary, Gene L. Green
- In-depth sermon series: Visit gty.org to find John MacArthur’s verse by verse sermon series on these two books.