

Sermon Supplement from October 1

A Heart For People In The Meantime | 1 Thess. 2:17-3:5

Warm Up

- Who has cared for you spiritually? How have they done so?
- Who do you care about spiritually? What do you do for them?

Dig In

Read 2:17-20 | A heart for people is an investment worth making

- In what ways is a heart for people evidenced in these verses?
- Talk about a time that you have been “torn away” from someone or have longed to be present with someone when that wasn’t a possibility?
- What are some advantages that being physically present has over virtual platforms?
- What does it mean to have a “ministry of presence” and how might we put this into practice?

Read 3:1-5 | A heart for people can always expect hardship

- The example of Timothy in verses 1-2 shows us that it takes people to help people. What can we learn from this example?
- Verses 3-4 teach us that when we have a heart for people we must anticipate spiritual affliction. What are examples of spiritual affliction today? How can we strengthen each other through these?
- Verse 5 shows that apostasy is always a possibility. What can we do to help guard against apostasy in our own lives and the lives of others?

Apply

- What are some specific applications of what we have studied this week?
- What specific action step will you take as a result of what we have learned?

(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 3:6-13*

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.