

Suggested Discussion Questions for 10/1/2023

Message: Thriving with the Thessalonians, pt 7, (1 Thes. 3:11-13; 4:9-12)

1. Share a time when God stirred love in your heart in a manner that surprised you.
2. Look at the “more and more” and “excel more” statements Paul makes in this letter. Where are they focused? What do you see as his aim with these?
3. Perhaps we miss too often that the trajectory or goal of this love is holiness. What are more common ends people seek in love? How does this drive to holiness fit the overall flow of the book?
4. Look at the various verses in the book where Paul raises the return of Christ. What do they have in common? What is distinct in 3:13? How is it connecting to loving more and more?
5. How does the context of the return of Christ help us understand the issue with those who aren't working?
6. How does 1 Thes. 5:14, 2 Thes. 3:6-7 and 3:11, where the same word appears, help us understand Paul's concern? Who might he be addressing in our day?
7. Some suggest we should “live out loud”. How would you apply Paul's admonition to live quietly?
8. What are the reasons Paul gives for living quietly, minding your own business and working?

Which of these stands out to you? Which seems most significant for our culture?

9. How does this passage challenge or encourage you?
10. What would you like to discuss in this passage that hasn't been brought up?