

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Sermon headings

Paul's thankfulness

Paul's confidence

Paul's prayer

Read verses 1 to 4

1. Paul says that thanking God for the Thessalonians is something he 'ought' to do (as well as being something he delights to do, presumably). Why is this, do you think?
2. What does he thank God for?
3. In context, why does Paul boast about the Thessalonians' perseverance and faith, do you think?
4. Can you see evidence of God at work in the same ways today at Emmanuel?
5. How can you make thanking God for his work in our church family a regular feature of your own prayers?

Read verses 5 to 10

6. What is God accomplishing through the persecutions and trials that the Thessalonians are suffering?

7. How should this help us to think more positively about suffering 'persecution' as Christians in this country (whether now or in the future)?

8. What does Paul say will happen when Jesus returns?

9. How should we respond to this knowledge?

Read verses 11 to 12

10. What are we dependent on God to do?

11. Why and how should this prompt us to pray?

Take time to share prayer requests and to pray about the things you've discussed.