



Thrive: God is Always Working Redemptively!

Date: August 11th, 2024

Text: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Passage Summary: Although the times in which we are living in these last days are growing increasingly dark and evil, God’s heart for His church that He bought with His own blood is that we would _____ in Christ, not merely _____!

Thrive: to grow vigorously, to prosper, to flourish

180 Degree Truth #1: See that in God’s economy, things like opposition and adversity actually form the _____ for a _____ church! (1:1-5)

Application: Recognize that in God’s economy...

- A thriving church is a _____ church! (v.1-5)

See that a thriving church is a church that is growing vigorously in their...

_____! (v.3)

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more...”

2 Thessalonians 1:3a

_____! (v.3)

“...and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.”

2 Thessalonians 1:3b

“Faith is the root, love is the fruit.”

John Walvoord

_____! (v.4)

“Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.”

2 Thessalonians 1:4

“You know quite well that we were destined for them.”

1 Thessalonians 3:3

Remember: When it comes to a thriving church, the knowledge that things like opposition and adversity form the ingredients for it does not necessarily eliminate the _____, but it can give us needed _____ to stay the course as God works redemptively to bring forth His purposes!

“Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.”

2 Corinthians 1:9

Core Conviction to Live By: Resolutely determine that the church that thrives in the last days will be the church that stands upon the rock of God’s salvation in Christ; and as the journey unfolds, takes time to lay down some Ebenezer stones, symbolic reminders according to 1 Samuel 7:12 that “Thus far the Lord has _____ us, coupled with the conviction, “And I’m _____, I’ll see it again and again”! (Passion, I’ve Witnessed It)

“Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far has the Lord helped us.”

1 Samuel 7:12

“Like a cluster of grapes crushed in a winepress, the grinding wheel of persecution and the stone of affliction were crushing the fragile body of believers in Thessalonica. But as those tender baby Christians yielded to God, they began to produce a fine wine with full bodied faith, with a fragrant love, and with a sweetness that spread to all the churches of Asia Minor.”

Chuck Swindoll