

Grow and Discern Resource Sheet

Series: *Formed for the Future, Faithful for Now*

Date: 7/20/25 **Title:** Encouragement for Endurance **Text:** 1 Thess. 5:9-11

Jesus set the expectation with his disciples that the Christian life would entail many troubles. Peter likewise, in his 1st epistle, explains that difficulties in the faith-life do not mean that something is wrong. That Christians are expected to rejoice even in their sufferings is an undeniable trait of New Testament Christianity. Still, maintaining faith & faithfulness until the Day of Christ in the midst of trials is difficult and requires encouragement from other saints.

Key Sermon Points

1. **Purpose: *Destined for deliverance, not destruction* (5:9)**

- Though the Day of the Lord is a day of judgment, we are people of destiny appointed to receive salvation through our Lord
- Often people struggle with the idea of election and predestination, but these doctrines are not intended to show how God is exclusive but how he is intentionally loving and personal in his saving work. Consider these passages of scripture & discuss
 - **Ephesians 1:3-11.** What are some of the big ideas that stand out?
 - **Romans 8:28-30.** How does this encourage you and how does it challenge you?
 - **2 Timothy 1:9-10.** Reflect on how God's original purpose leads to revelation in Christ.
 - **1 Peter 2:9-10.** How does this shape our identity in Christ?

2. **Pursue: *Christ died to win us* (5:10)**

- The cross of Christ becomes the instrument of God fulfilling his purpose to win those appointed for salvation.
- Winning those who are appointed entails defeating Satan. Look at Colossians 2:13-15. How does this passage give us the ammunition to defeat Satan's attempts to enslave us with guilt? Also consider Hebrews 4:15-16 and 1 John 2:1-2
- Read Revelation 5. How does this give us confidence in gospel missions?

3. **Persist: *Encourage to Endure* (5:8)**

Encouragement is essential for our endurance and spiritual growth.

- Discuss how the gatherings of God's people strengthen us, based on what we see in **Hebrews 10:24-25**, and how fellowship helps us based on what we see in **Heb.3:12-14**

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Discussion Questions

1. God has “not **appointed** us to wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (v.9). How does this shape our sense of identity and purpose as believers living in a broken world?
2. How does Christ’s death – “so that whether we are awake or asleep, we might live with him” (v.10) – give us confidence and courage today? How does this truth help us face spiritual discouragement or cultural opposition?
3. Why do you think Paul emphasizes mutual encouragement and building each other up in verse 11 as it relates to the Day of the Lord? In what ways can we be more intentional about encouraging one another in our local church community to endure until the end?
4. How can we **grow in persistence** – not just individually but communally – as we await Christ’s return? What **practices** help you stay spiritually awake and alert?

Meditating on Formation

1. “**God has not destined me for wrath, but for life with Christ.**” – Let this truth quiet your fears, especially when you feel unworthy or discouraged.
2. “**Jesus died so I can live with Him – both now and forever.**” – Ponder how this changes the way you live, work, and relate to others today.
3. “**Encouragement is not optional in the Christian life – it’s how we endure.**” – Ask the Spirit to show you who needs encouragement from you this week and reflect on how you’ve been encouraged by others.