

Outline

I. Introduction and Context

- A. Welcome and mission update
- B. Prayer for living in the last days with boldness, purity, love, and endurance
- C. Series introduction: "Living in the Last Days" (Week 2 of 3)

II. Historical and Biblical Background

- A. Setting: Thessalonica circa AD 50-51
 - 1. Bustling Roman port city in Macedonia
 - 2. Hub of trade, culture, and idolatry
 - 3. Multiple temples, shrines, and pagan worship
- B. Paul's arrival in Thessalonica
 - 1. Came from Philippi after brutal beating (Acts 16)
 - 2. Preached in synagogue for three Sabbaths
 - 3. Many believed, but jealousy sparked riots
 - 4. Paul forced to flee, leaving vulnerable new believers
- C. Understanding "the last days"
 - 1. Last days began at Pentecost (Acts 2:17)
 - 2. Era between Christ's ascension and return
 - 3. Greek word "eschatos" - final period, end times
 - 4. Thessalonians lived with urgency; we should too

III. Central Question

- A. How do we live when hearts grow colder, truth is twisted, and faith is tested?
- B. Key principle: Our lives must be a greater testimony than our words (1 Peter 2:12)

IV. Four Ways to Live in the Last Days (from 1 Thessalonians 2-3)

A. First: Speak Boldly (1 Thessalonians 2:1-2)

1. Paul's example after suffering in Philippi
2. Greek "tolmao" - courage in the face of danger
3. Boldness is supernatural, not natural
4. God's Spirit gives us words (Matthew 10:18-20)
5. Our lives must back up our words

B. Second: Live Purely (1 Thessalonians 2:4-6)

1. Seeking God's approval, not people's
2. Greek "aresko" - to please or accommodate
3. Rejecting compromise despite cultural pressure
4. Living transparently for God's approval
5. Greek "hagnos" - moral cleanness
6. Pure life causes people to ask what's different
7. Warning from Matthew 24:12 about growing cold

C. Third: Love Deeply (1 Thessalonians 2:7-8)

1. Paul's metaphor of nursing mother
2. Greek "trophe" - nurturing, self-giving care
3. Sharing not just words but our lives (psyche - souls)
4. Jesus modeled this through personal ministry

5. Practical examples: presence over digital engagement
6. Personal illustration: fatherhood and showing up
7. Romans 12:15 - mourn with those who mourn
8. Deep, genuine, personal love as testimony

D. Fourth: Endure Faithfully (1 Thessalonians 3:7-8)

1. Greek "stekete" - military term for holding position
2. Standing firm under attack
3. Rejoicing in steadfast faith, not comfort

V. Warning About False Teaching in Last Days

A. Problem with heretical churches today

1. Easy gospel without self-sacrifice
2. Psychological self-help instead of sanctification
3. Entertainment venues with emotionalism, not Holy Spirit

B. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 - Characteristics of last days

1. Lovers of self, money, pleasure
2. Proud, abusive, unholy
3. Without love, unforgiving, brutal
4. Form of godliness but denying its power

C. 2 Timothy 4:3-5 - People following desires

1. Rejecting sound teaching
2. Looking for teachers to validate desires
3. Chasing myths instead of truth

4. Call to keep clear mind and endure suffering

VI. Life Change Challenge

A. Bold Sharing Step

1. Identify one person to speak to about faith
2. Pray for boldness
3. Share simple testimony
4. Let consistent life amplify words

B. Purity Check

1. Examine where seeking people's approval over God's
2. Journal instances this week
3. Repent and choose one area to align with purity
4. Live it out as silent witness

C. Deep Love Action

1. Reach out to someone kept at distance
2. Invite for meal or listen to their story
3. Share your life as testimony of Christ's love

VII. Conclusion

A. Time is short - Jesus is coming soon

B. Summary: Speak boldly, live purely, love deeply, endure faithfully

C. Closing prayer for believers and invitation to salvation

D. Altar call for prayer and ministry