



ROUTE 66 - Pastor Tim Chambers

Key Idea: *The Books of 1 & 2 Thessalonians, where we learn how God transforms us from Sinner to Saint.*

Scriptures Used: *1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, 4:3-4, 5:5-6, 4:16-17 & 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5*

Share: The Apostle Paul wrote both of these letters to encourage the new Christians, reminding them not to lose hope and to trust in God's plan, even when things get tough. He wanted them to understand what was coming and be ready for it. These books help explain what's going to happen in the end times, and give believers hope that, no matter what, Jesus will come through for them.

Discuss:

- 1) **In short: 1 Thessalonians = Jesus is coming back, don't worry!** *How does knowing that Jesus is returning for His Church make you feel and how does it affect the way you live your life?*
- 2) **In short: 2 Thessalonians = Things will get rough before it gets better, but God's got this!** *Why is it important for us to know that God is all powerful and in total control despite our difficult life experiences? How do these truths encourage you?*

Share: Thessalonians give us a roadmap for the journey of moving from a life of sin to becoming saints - people set apart for God's purposes.

Step 1: Called Out of Darkness (The Sinner's Condition) Helpless

Read: 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 – "They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath."

Discuss:

- 1) *We don't have to be perfect to get started on our faith journey, but we do need to turn to God. What are some necessary steps needed for someone to come to Jesus for their spiritual transformation?*
- 2) *Redemption rewrites every chapter we thought we lost. How has God's grace changed your life despite your past?*

Step 2: Made Holy in Christ (Becoming Saints)

Read: Thessalonians 4:3-4 – "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable."

Discuss:

- 1) Sanctification is the process of being made holy, set apart. What are some ways we can actively set ourselves apart in this world?
- 2) Sanctification is not a one-time event; it's a daily decision to follow Christ and live in a way that honors Him. Which area do you think is most difficult to grow in holiness: in our actions, our thoughts, or our relationships? Explain why.

Step 3: Living as Saints in a Broken World - Hurting

Read: Thessalonians 5:5-6 – "You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober."

Discuss:

- 1) From sinner to saint isn't a destination - it's a daily surrender to the One who calls us His own. How can we stand out in a world that is often hostile to God's ways?

Step 4: Encouragement in the Journey (Strength in Trials)

Read: 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 – "Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result, you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God."

Discuss:

- 1) The journey from sinner to saint isn't easy. The Thessalonians faced persecution and hardship, but Paul encourages them to persevere. What is a hardship that you've overcome that has helped refine you as a follower of Christ?
- 2) What things would you describe as a spiritual workout destined to strengthen our faith in God? Which do you find hardest to maintain and why?

Step 5: Looking Forward to Christ's Return (The Hope of Saints)

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven... And the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."

Discuss: 1) *The ultimate hope for all believers is that one day Christ will return. How does this blessed hope help you live in the days we are living in right now? How do you share this hope with others?*

Closing remarks: "The transformation from sinner to saint isn't earned—it's gifted. All we have to do is receive. Are you allowing Him to sanctify you and shape you into His likeness? Let's commit to walking this path from sinner to saint, trusting God to lead us every step of the way. **"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).**

Upcoming Event:

- One Day to Feed the World Offering - Sunday, November 10th
 - Visit FreshStart.Church to learn more and even give to the offering.
 - The idea is to give one day's wages that will be given to Convoy of Hope to help feed those that are hungry.
 - Talk about this with your LOOP and use it as a way to teach them that offerings like this are above and beyond your tithe. They are opportunities to be generous and give more than the tithe.

- Oh What a Night - Women's Holiday Event
 - November 22nd, \$35 per person.
 - Register on the Church Center app.