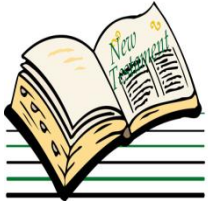


Sermon Notes

Title: "Introduction to 2 Thessalonians: Church Identity"

Text: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2

Theme: When you are "in the Church" through faith in Christ you are in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. And if you are "in" the Father and the Son, you are blessed with every blessing that you need.



I. _____, the Author (1a)

II. The Other Two Guys (1a)

III. The _____ (1b)

IV. The _____ (2)

V. Applications

A. The Church and Your Place in It Is _____ by
and Gets Its _____ from God.

B. Every flock of Christ is _____ and
_____ to God.

C. The Issue for any congregation of the Lord is not
_____, but about _____ and
_____.

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. Who wrote the letter to the 2 Thessalonians (2 Thessalonians 1:1a)?
2. Give some highlights of Paul's life. What did God call him to do? What was his initial attitude toward Christians? Who was his famous teacher? What was his life like as a missionary? How many letters did he write that are in the New Testament?
3. What is a common view of unbelieving scholars of the Bible regarding Paul? How would you answer these critics?
4. What do you find to be impressive about Paul as a person?
5. Who were the other two men Paul mentions alongside him in his letter (1:1a)?
6. Who were these men? Did they co-author the letter with Paul?
7. Who received this letter from Paul (1:1b)?
8. Describe something about the city and what happened that caused Paul to leave (Acts 17:1-9)?
9. How does Paul describe this church (1:1b)?
10. What blessing does Paul pray for these believers (1:2)?
11. What is grace?
12. How would you identify the Church?
13. How does the world tend to define and identify the Church?
14. Are some congregations of the Lord more special and important than others? Why or why not?
15. How concerned should the Church be about its size?