

# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

## Review & Reflections on I & II Thessalonians



1. Paul's Successful Gospel Ministry

2. Marks of an Exemplary Life and  
Model Church

3. Secret of Heavenly Blessings

4. Return of Christ:  
Rapture & Second Coming

Knowledge + Application = Transformation

# 1. Paul's successful Gospel Ministry


Chosen by God  
to deliver the gospel  
for the glory of God

Thirteen Epistles of sound teachings

**PAUL**

Genuine Love for Lost

Worked Hard  
Willing to suffer for Christ



What will be  
"success" in  
gospel ministry?

# How Gospel works

(1 Thessalonians 1:5)

Evangelist preaches the Word

Word is heard and received

Conviction brought by the power of the Holy Spirit

Assurance of sins forgiven & eternal life

Souls saved and added to the Church (Acts 2:37-47)

Satan makes us to "doubt" all of the above, especially assurance of forgiveness

# Effective gospel leads to the Transformed Life (1 Thess. 1:9-10)

Turned to God from Idols  
(**past**, work of faith)

Serving the living God  
(**present**, labor of love)

Waiting for His return  
(**future**, patience of hope)



# Paul's successful model for church ministry:

## Preach. Plant. Pray. Progress (I Thessalonians. 1:2)



Sadly, many churches  
Have not even  
started step #1

Every church  
needs a Paul ...  
a mother,  
father, mentor

(I Thessalonians 2)

As a nursing mother, gentle and nurturing (7)

As a father, exhorted, comforted, and challenged (11)

As a mentor, trained Timothy & others



Power behind Paul's ministry  
... **Prayer & Grace of God**

Paul's model prayer for all  
preachers and evangelists  
(II Thessalonians, 3:1-2)

Word of God (gospel) may  
**flow** uninterrupted

Word may be proclaimed for  
**His glory**

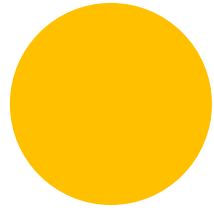
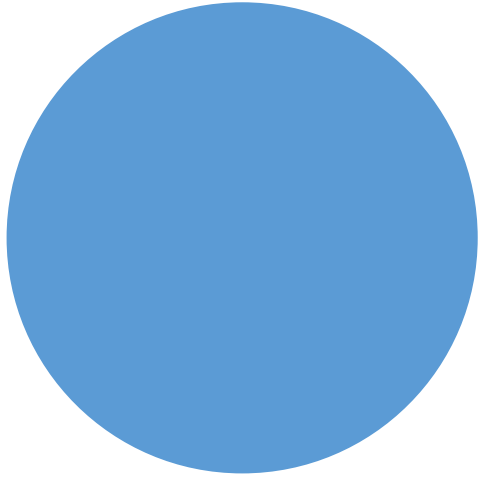
He may be **delivered** from  
unreasonable and wicked men

# Paul's Message for afflicted church

(1 Thess. 3:3-4)

Trials, Afflictions, Persecutions are part of believer's life designed to bring spiritual maturity.

Without such teaching, believers will be confused, question or even reject their faith during hard times.



## 2. Marks of an exemplary life and a model Church

Lessons from Paul's  
Teaching

# Believer's Life

**Chosen. Sanctified. Glorified.**

**PAST:** God has chosen us to salvation

**PRESENT:** Salvation attained and continued through Sanctification

**FUTURE:** Glorification (we will be like Him, **1 John 3:2**)

# Faith. Love. Hope. Steadfast.

**GROW IN  
FAITH**

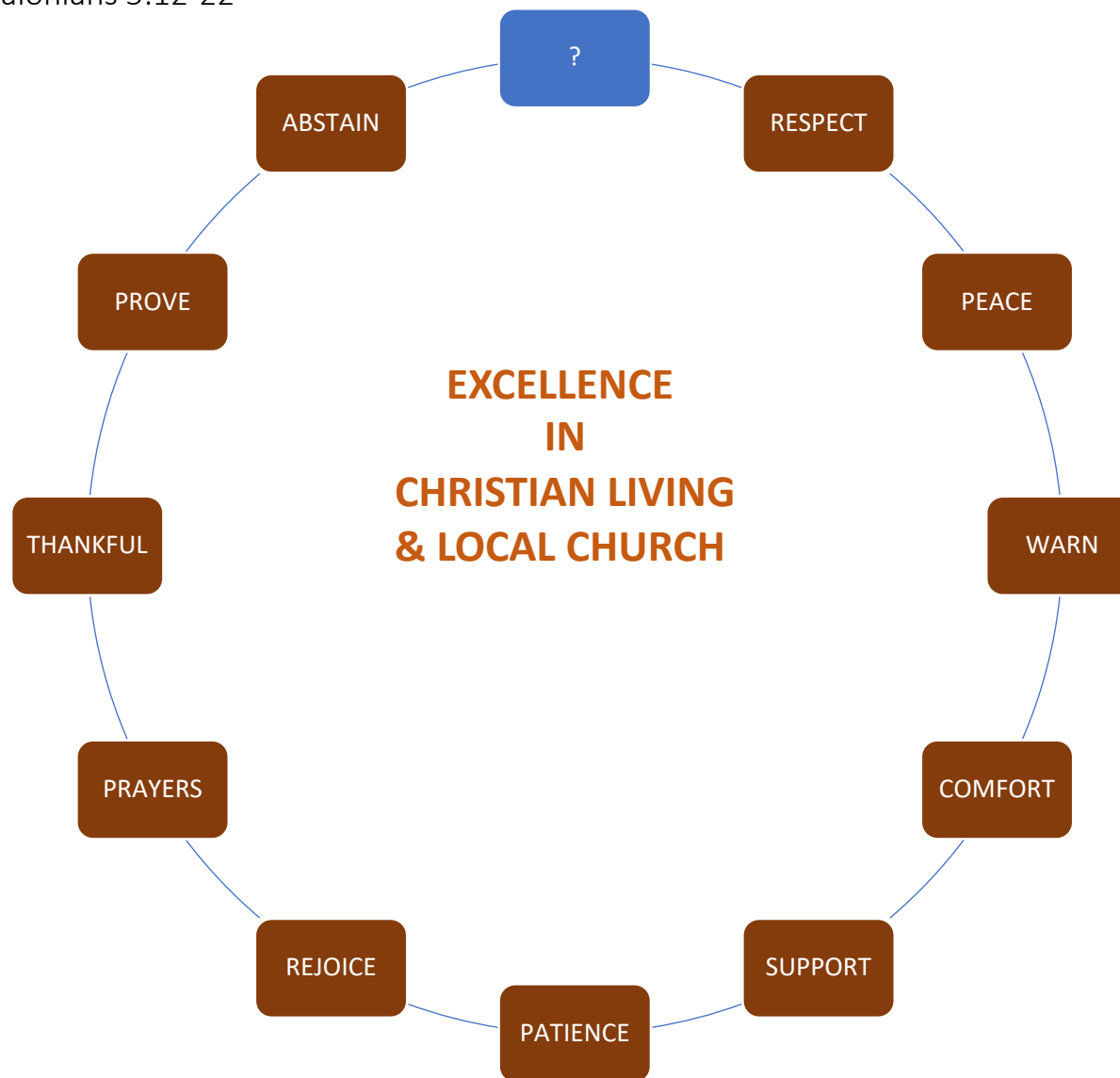
**Abound in  
LABOR OF LOVE**

**PATIENTLY ENDURE  
OF TRIALS**  
Because of **LIVING  
HOPE**

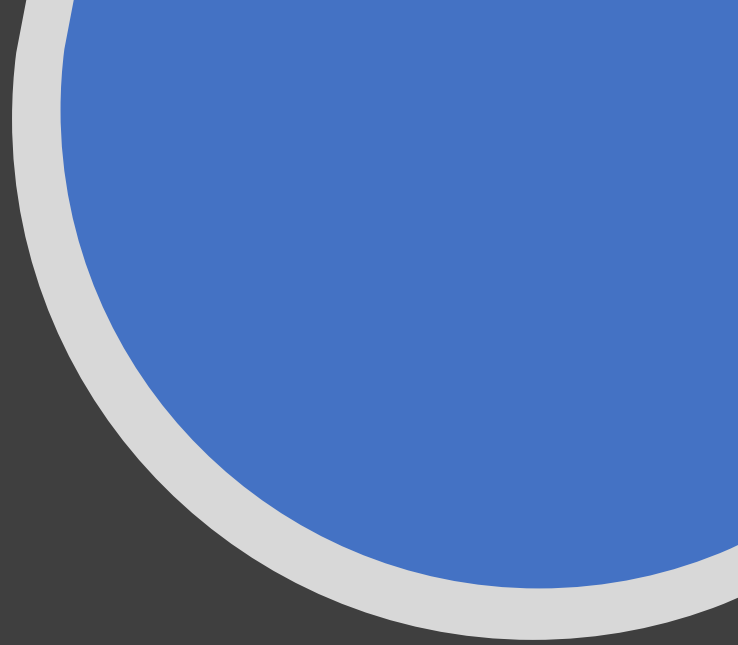
**STAND FAST &  
UPHOLD SOUND  
DOCTRINE**



I Thessalonians 5:12-22



# 3. Secret of Heavenly Blessings



Secret of  
blessings  
in our life

Discover God's will

+ Obey

= Heavenly Blessings



## God's will

For this is the will of God,  
even your sanctification,  
that ye should abstain  
from fornication:

(1 Thessalonians 4:3)

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**Sanctification (To be set apart, made holy)**

**God expects holiness in all areas of our life:**

Sight

Speech

Thoughts

Hearing

Actions

# Sanctification: Types

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1. Positional sanctification

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2. Progressive (on-going)  
sanctification

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3. Perfect sanctification

**Sanctification:**  
God's will for  
married and  
singles

If Married, be faithful  
to your spouse

If Single, abstain from  
intimate relationships

What if you  
chose to  
disobey?

(1 Thessalonians 4:8)

You are rejecting  
God (not man)

Rejection will lead  
to Chastisement!

# 4. RETURN OF CHRIST

# RETURN OF CHRIST



Rapture

The diagram features a large blue arrow pointing to the right, which contains the word 'Rapture' in white text. This arrow is positioned over a black rectangular area that is itself set against a background of a blue arrow pointing to the left. The overlapping of the arrows creates a visual metaphor for the transition from the current state to the Rapture.

# RAPTURE

I Thessalonians  
4:16-18

**WHY?** Because He  
Promised to return

**WHEN?** No one  
knows, except the  
Father (before  
great tribulation)

**WHO?**  
CHURCH

**WHERE?**  
In the Air



I Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort  
one another with these words.



## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER RAPTURE: KEY EVENTS

### Judgement Seat

of Christ for  
Believers

Anti Christ  
Revealed

7-year Tribulation starts

### Second Coming

1. Armagaddon,
2. AntiChrist thrown into the lake of fire
3. Satan bound for 1,000 years

7-years after rapture

### After 1,000-year Messianic rule

Satan thrown into  
the lake of fire

All unbelievers  
resurrected and  
face **White Throne  
Judgement** &  
cast into lake of  
fire (Revelation  
20:15)

## New Jerusalem

Revelation 21

# Appointment with God

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:9)

## **Believer's Appointment**

- Not to wrath of God but to salvation
- Not to separation but to be in God's presence for ever
- Made possible by the death of Christ on the cross
- Assurance of eternal Security for believers

## **Unbeliever's Appointment**

Unbeliever's fate will be wrath of God and eternal separation from God

## BENEDICTION

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

### Peace

- He is the price of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)
- He gives perfect peace when we remain focused on Him (Isaiah 26:3)
- He gives peace in the midst of storms (Mark 4:39)
- The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalms 29:11)

**Grace ... His Grace is sufficient**



# Disciplining in Love

NEXT WEEK

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