2 Thessalonians Series 2
Stand Firm While Waiting for the Lord’s Return
April 8, 2016

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.
Prepare a couple of simple, fun and delightful icebreakers to help your group warm up. Help your cell group members to lay aside their busyness and tiredness and prepare their hearts to come before God.

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.
Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead the cell group members to worship God. The worship leader would encourage members to come before the throne of God to seek God’s face, and lead them into God’s presence. During this time, the cell group leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for the following prayer items:

A. MISSION ORGANIZATION: ____________, and their needs are: ____________
(Please contact the church if you don’t know the needs of the mission organization.)

B. CHURCH MINISTRY:
  • 4/10 Spring Retreat regular registration deadline
  • 4/13 Combined Prayer Meeting @ 7:30pm in Emmanuel Chapel
  • 4/16 Women’s Tea Party @ 2-4pm in Fellowship Hall
  • 4/17 & 4/24 Christ Centered Scriptural Reading Class
  • 4/23 Community Service (Pastor Doris’s Group)

C. New comer: ________________ Confirm new comers’ name before the meeting.
   For sick members, friends or relatives: ________________ Please discuss how you may show your care to them.

III. WORD, 45 mins. Through sharing and discussing God’s word, the group applies it to their daily life.

A. Sharing the message from last Sunday’s sermon: (It would be helpful if you could listen on-line once again)
   1. What is the key message from last Sunday’s sermon? How did God speak to you through the message?
   2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

B. Topic of the week: Stand Firm While Waiting for the Lord’s Return

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verses: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorizing Verses: So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. (2 Thessalonians 2:15)</td>
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Preface:
In chapter two, Paul taught the brothers and sisters specifically that there will be signs when the Lord returns. When the time comes, the man of lawlessness will be deceived by Satan and perform things of apostasy. He will oppose God and will exalt himself, even to the point of setting himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming him to be God. The man of lawlessness will display all kinds of powers, signs, false wonders, and deception of wickedness. However, do not be deceived by Satan’s lies. The Lord Jesus will come and destroy the man of lawlessness with the breath of his mouth and the splendor of his coming.

1. There will be signs when the Lord returns (2 Thessalonians 2:1-5)

   A. There will be deceptions (1-2): Paul told the believers in 1 Thessalonians that the Lord’s return will be sudden. However, there had been people writing in Paul’s name to the church’s believers claiming that the day of the Lord has already come. Paul urged them not to become easily unsettled or alarmed, and not to be deceived by Satan and fall into his trap.

   B. The man of lawlessness will be revealed (3): Paul exhorted them not to be deceived because prior to the day of the Lord’s return, apostasy will come first and the man of lawlessness, that is the son of destruction, will be revealed. For reference to the man of lawlessness, please see the Antichrist mentioned in 1 John (1 John 2:18, 22 and 4:3), the beast in Revelation 13 and 17, and the king that destroys the holy place in Daniel 9.

   C. The characteristics of the man of lawlessness (4-5): Paul reminded the believers again that he had taught them the
truth about the Lord’s second coming while he was among them. Now fearing that they had forgotten, he warned them again: before the Lord Jesus comes again, the Antichrist must be revealed. He will oppose Christ and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

2. When the Lord returns, he will overthrow the man of lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2:6-12):

A. The Lord is holding the man of lawlessness back (6-7):
Paul mentioned specifically that although the secret power of lawlessness is already at work, but it is held back so it won’t be revealed. What is holding the man of lawlessness back? Satan’s work is held back by the church and the power of the Holy Spirit until the church and the believers are caught up in the air.

B. The Lord will overthrow the man of lawlessness (8): When the Lord Jesus returns, he will overthrow the man of lawlessness with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.

C. The characteristics of the man of lawlessness (9-12): The man of lawlessness will operate in accordance with Satan’s deception by displaying powers through signs and false wonders. His act will deceive those who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness. God will send delusions to work in their hearts so that they will believe the lie, and so that they will be condemned in the end.

3. The Lord will come again, the believers need to stand firm (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17): Paul’s exhortation

A. Paul thanks God for the believers (13): Paul thanked God for the brothers and sisters in Thessalonica because they were chosen by God from the beginning. Paul was also thankful because they believed the truth and they were inspired by the Holy Spirit and became holy in their ways. As a result, they would not believe the lies and will be saved when the Lord Jesus comes again.

B. Paul’s encouragement (14-15): Since God had given the Gospel to the believers in Thessalonica through Paul’s teaching and called them to believe in Jesus, the believers will surely share in the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ when he returns. Paul encouraged the believers to hold fast to his teachings. Whether the teachings were passed to them by the word of mouth or by letter, they needed to follow it in order to stand firm and do the good deeds.

C. Paul’s prayer (16-17): In the end Paul blessed the believers in Thessalonica by the grace of Jesus and the love of the God the Father, who gave them eternal encouragement and good hope, to strengthen them.

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs of the members):

1. What is the one thing that you want to do the most before? Why?
2. What were the signs that Paul taught the believers when the Lord returns? How do we discern them?
3. How will Jesus deal with the man of lawlessness? How does it concern us?
4. Have you ever encountered any teachings that are not in conformity with Christian belief? How did you deal with it?
5. How can we stand firm and wait for the Lord’s return? What specific actions can help us?

Prayer:
Dear Abba Father, we thank you and praise you. Thank you for teaching us through Paul to recognize the signs prior to the Lord Jesus’ return. Please protect us to hold fast to the teachings of the Bible and recognize the truth. So when the Lord returns, we will not be deceived by Satan’s lies and believe the actions of the man of lawlessness. We need to obey Bible’s teachings and follow the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to resist and hold back the actions of the man of lawlessness. Please protect us during the end times to be
holy, do the good deeds, stand firm, hold fast to our faith, and wait for the coming of the Lord with perseverance and patience. Our prayer and thanksgiving are in the precious and holy name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!

D. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.

Please break into groups of 2 or 3 to pray for each other’s needs.