Sermon Notes for October 9, 2016

Our Joy and Crown

I Thessalonians 2:17-3:13

Introduction

How do you want to be remembered in this life?

What will bring you the greatest joy when you stand before the Lord in that final day?

Paul lived his life in a way that would count for eternity.

If we are to live our life in a way that will count for eternity, we will build into the lives of others.

I. Love one another. I Thessalonians 2:17-20

Paul cared deeply about the Thessalonians.

The words “torn away” express his anguish and grief over their separation.

Paul said we made every effort to come to you but Satan stopped us.

Paul understood the eternal significance of what he was doing.

What would be his crown when he stood before the Lord?

The word crown was the victor’s crown or wreath given to the winner in an athletic competition.

Paul is saying the crowning achievement of my life will be to stand before the Lord with you.

What will be your joy and crown on that day?

II. Strengthen and encourage one another. I Thessalonians 3:1-5

Paul longed to be with the Thessalonians, but when he couldn’t, he sent Timothy, his disciple, even if that meant he would be alone himself.

His mission was to encourage and strengthen these new followers of Christ.

Paul had forewarned them about the trials and persecution they would experience.

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” II Timothy 3:12

We need to strengthen and encourage one another in our faith the harder it gets.
Paul was more concerned about the church than his personal needs.

What is best for the church?

III. Pray for one another. I Thessalonians 3:6-13

Timothy returned with a wonderful report.

- The Thessalonians were growing in faith and love.
- They longed to see Paul also.
- They were standing firm in the Lord.

Do you hear the relief that Paul felt?

“For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.” Verse 8

Paul’s prayer is found in verses 11-13. Paul was praying that:

- God would clear a way for a return visit.
- Their love for one another would continue to grow and overflow.
- Their faith would be strengthened so that they would be holy and blameless when our Lord Jesus returns.

Conclusion

The Bible calls us to

- Love one another.
- Strengthen and encourage one another.
- Pray for one another.

It doesn’t call us to “sanctify one another, humble one another, pressure one another, embarrass one another, corner one another, interrupt one another, defeat one another, sacrifice one another, shame one another, judge one another, run one another’s lives, confess one another’s sins, intensify one another’s suffering, point out one another’s failings…” Pastor Ray Ortlund

Make your life count for eternity by building into the lives of others.