



## **“Integrity: Waiting patiently”**

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**WELCOME:** Last week we had a guest appearance by Colin Scott from Fresh Hope on “Mission in Action”. He outlined several ways that they (us) reach out to people as Missions. Can you remember any examples? Where does Connect Church mission support go to Primarily?

### **DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE :**

Phil continued on in our study of Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians, after Mike had covered 1Thess Chs 1-5, in particular – Phil focused on the Second coming of Jesus. He outlined the nature of the Thessalonian church as being one of INTEGRITY: Wholesome, honest, God-honouring, undivided, righteous living and following the teachings of Jesus.

### ***READ 2 Thess 1: 3-4.***

- ~What do Paul, Timothy and Sylvanus see in this church that they boast about?
- ~ What tough things has this church come through?

Paul saw a need for 2<sup>nd</sup> letter, as the church was handling his teaching about Jesus return in his first letter - 1 Thess – poorly.

### ***Re-read 1Thess 4:13-18 .***

As a result of their different understandings of what Paul has written, the church is divided in 2 camps:

- A. The “Resting Group” on hilltops, houses sold, jobs quitted - waiting for Jesus returning SOON
- B. The “Restless Group” - some False teachers told them Jesus had already returned and they had missed it. The big question for them – and for us too is – WHEN will Jesus return?

### **POINT 1: Why worry NOW?**

#### ***Read 1 Tim 4 :1-3***

- ~ Do you see any of what you read in 1Tim 4 happening in our world today?
- ~Where do you see “teaching of demons” in Australia/World today?
- ~Do you think the Thessalonians lived in the “latter times”?
- ~What about us? Is the Anglican Church right to say we ARE in the last days, as it does in the YR5/6 SRE children’s workbook (as shown in the sermon)

#### **Some thoughts to consider:**

In 1928 - 56% of Western world attended church.

In 2000 it was only 18%! ... Do you think it is likely to have improved by 2021? **Discuss.**

#### ***Read 2 Thess 2 : 1-4***

- ~ v2 what does Paul say is the church’s state of mind?
  - ~ who has upset them if not “us” ? How?
  - ~ v3-4 what 2 things must occur before Jesus comes back?
- Phil equates the man of lawlessness or “son of perdition” with the “Antichrist.” (1 John 2:18-23)
- ~ describe what he does that God will hate (v4)

#### ***Read 2 Thess 2: 5-8***

- ~what or who restrains the antichrists’ coming?
- ~How does he end?

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The antichrist is in the future and the timing of his coming is not for us to know now, but can you understand people thinking Hitler and Stalin were antichrist?

**Read 2 Thess 2: 9-12**

~What does he do to deceive people? Can you think of any examples of these things today?

~Why do you think God contributes to people believing his lies in v17?

**POINT 2: Listen! Jesus has saved you!**

**Read 2 Thess 2: 13-14** Paul gives thanks for this church.

~How did Thessalonians respond to Jesus?

~Do you relate to this verse? Why?

**Read 2 Thess 2: 15-17**

Paul, as an Apostle of Christ, gives them an imperative for future successful Christian living. What is it?

~How does 2 Thess 2:7 relate to what Paul teaches here? Also read 1 John 4 :1-3.

~v16-17 Do you feel the love Paul has?

~What does Paul say they are to do? V17

Turn to your partner or Group member and recite v 16-17 over them as a blessing.

So, Paul has taught them that the Second coming is a future event. He has shown How, What and Why Jesus will return BUT not WHEN!

**POINT 3 Wait Patiently! .....But Diligently!**

Our world is beautiful but is in a Spiritual conflict.

God/Jesus- via Churches being missional (see Matt 28 : 18-21) VERSUS satan/his horde - via Mass media and Social media (There are 14.91 Billion smartphones -carrying much good and very much evil to people.)

**Read John 16:33; 1 John 5:19**

John reflects Jesus prophetic words about the world and its people.

So, like the Thessalonians, we are to wait patiently for Jesus to come. Like them, we are People of Faith, Patience and Love - with a message of HOPE for the world AND that Commission in Matthew.

**Read John 11 :25-27**

~ what is the message Martha got? Would she have shared that?

Let us Diligently SHARE our HOPE with others.

**Read Heb 6 :18, John 14 :6, Col 1 :5; Rom 5 :3-5; Rom 8 : 35-38**

~How do these convey HOPE to Us and our World?

Last week, Colin exemplified being Missional to our world.

We have 5 Fields to PRAY into, SPEAK into and GIVE towards

1 Yourself - your walk. 2 Your Family - their salvation. 3 Your neighbours - share your Faith and Hope. 4 Sydney - workplace. 5 The World \$ + support

In every step of your life and outreach, **GOD IS FOR YOU! SO ...**

Read **Phil 4 :19-20** and take time to PRAY now for these People in your life.

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