

Theme: In the book of 1 Thessalonians, Paul encourages Christians in the midst of an ungodly culture to live in holiness as they eagerly await the return of Jesus.

## **I. A Holy Prayer of Thanks**

- A. Theme: Human rebellion produces hearts of ingratitude, but the Gospel forms hearts that overflow with thankfulness - expressed to God in prayer and in verbal gratitude to others.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5
- C. Response: Eucharist
- D. Benediction: Psalm 115:14-15
- E. Teaching keywords: Gratitude and thanksgiving; prayer; blessing; gospel; good works; perseverance

## **II. A Holy, Chosen People**

- A. Theme: Knowing who we are as God's holy, chosen people shapes how we live — joyfully receiving His Word, turning from false gods, faithfully proclaiming His Gospel, and eagerly waiting for His Son from heaven.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Psalm 128:5-6
- E. Teaching keywords: election; holiness; idolatry and false gods; evangelism and missions; eschatology; second coming; hope; endurance

## **III. A Holy Ministry**

- A. Theme: Holy ministry is always done before the face of God — springing from pure motives, expressed in Christlike gentleness and holiness, and sustained through conflict until God rewards faithful labor with fruit.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Hebrews 13:20-21
- E. Teaching keywords: leadership; holiness; endurance; correction; church

## **IV. A Holy Response to the Word of God**

- A. Theme: God's holy people are continually formed by an eager, faith-filled reception of His Word, while those who reject it find themselves increasingly hardened against God Himself — to their own ultimate destruction.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Acts 20:32
- E. Teaching keywords: Word of God; gospel; salvation and deliverance; holiness; persecution; judgment

## **V. A Holy Joy During Unholy War**

- A. Theme: Because spiritual warfare is real and Satan actively opposes the faith, God's people must anchor their joy not in circumstances but in His faithful work in the lives of those they love — a joy no enemy can destroy.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:10
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: St. Patrick's Breastplate
- E. Teaching keywords: joy; persecution; perseverance; Satan and demons; spiritual warfare; holiness

## **VI. A Holy Community of Love**

- A. Theme: God empowers His people to overflow with love — and this love, far from opposing holiness, is precisely what produces it, establishing the church as a holy community of love as it looks forward to the return of Jesus.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
- E. Teaching keywords: holiness; love; community; church; prayer; eschatology

## **VII. A Holy Sexuality**

- A. Theme: Because God has called His people out of impurity and into holiness, sexual purity is not a cultural preference but a divine command — one the Holy Spirit empowers us to keep.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
- E. Teaching keywords: sexual sin; holiness; self-control; sanctification

## **VIII. A Holy Ambition**

- A. Theme: Holy ambition is not the pursuit of fame, platform, or recognition — it is the God-given aspiration to live quietly, work hard, and love others through faithful service in the callings God has given us.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Psalm 90:16-17
- E. Teaching keywords: love; calling and work, holiness

## **IX. A Holy Hope**

- A. Theme: Because Jesus died and rose again, death cannot separate believers from Him — their spirits are immediately with Christ at death, their bodies will be raised when He returns, and nothing in life, death, or eternity can break their union with the Lord.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Philippians 3:10-11
- E. Teaching keywords: Death; eschatology; second coming; hope; intermediate state; resurrection

## **X. Holy Waiting**

- A. Theme: Holy waiting is not passive — it is the wide-awake, sober, light-filled life of those who know Christ is coming, live in light of that Day, and encourage one another to do the same.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
- E. Teaching keywords: Second coming; eschatology; holiness

## **XI. A Holy Fellowship**

- A. Theme: Holy fellowship calls God's people to honor, encourage, help, and patiently care for one another.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:11,14
- E. Teaching keywords: Community; Fellowship; Service and Servanthood; Christian Life; Church

## **XII. A Holy Joy: Yet I Will Rejoice**

- A. Theme: True and lasting joy is found not in changing circumstances, but in the unchanging presence of God. "You will fill me with joy in your presence" (Psalm 16:11). As 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 reminds us, we can "rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances" because Christ is always with us.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: Jude 1:24-25
- E. Teaching keywords: Joy; Perseverance and Endurance; Christian Life

### **XIII. Holy Waiting: Guard, Faith Community**

- A. Theme: In a world filled with spiritual warfare and strategic distractions, our faith is preserved not by our own fragile willpower, but by the supernatural protection of Jesus Christ working through a healthy church community.
- B. Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:19-28
- C. Response: Communion
- D. Benediction: 1 Thessalonians 5:24
- E. Teaching keywords: Joy; Perseverance and Endurance; Christian Life

#### **Holy Waiting - Series Outline**

1 Thessalonians  
Summer/Fall 2026