

SCC Small Group Discussion
Worthy of God's call – 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12
Derived from a sermon on August 4, 2024 by Rev. Rick Dietzman

Getting Started:

What is an item in your possession that has great worth to you because of what it represents or who it is associated with?

Searching the Scriptures:

Worthy (axios) = “weighing that reflects actual, precise worth”

Are we growing in faith and love?

Key word: growing

Of great worth: faith and love

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. 2 Thessalonians 1:3

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1-3

“The unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, is of great worth in God's sight.” 1 Peter 3:4

A. Pastor Rick talked about some famous “iconic” items that were attributed with great worth because of their uniqueness and authenticity. What makes a life that is growing in faith and love so original, real and valuable in God's sight?

Are we willing to endure trials, knowing God is just?

Key word: persevering (willing to endure)

Of great worth: trials and God's justice

Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just. 2 Thessalonians 1:4-6

- B. What is "the evidence that God's judgment is right" when it comes to being worthy?

- C. Why do you think that in times of persecution some people's perseverance and faith grows, while other people's doesn't?

- D. Why does suffering play such a prominent part in being worthy of God's kingdom in so many Bible passages? (See 1 Peter 4:12-13, James 1:2-4, Romans 12:18-19, and Philippians 1:27-29 for examples)

God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

- E. How is the idea of coming justice a comfort to you when you experience things that are not handled in the right way and cause you trouble?

- F. The scene described is a furious and terrible one. What makes it a hopeful scenario for Christians?

Are we living for God's glory and bearing good fruit?

Key word: bearing

Of great worth: God's glory, good fruit

We constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith. pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. Colossians 1:10

G. Have you seen God recently fulfill one of your good purposes or acts of faith? Was Jesus lifted up or exalted in some way?

Application of Scripture:

We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 2 Corinthians 4:7

The hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. Ephesians 1:18-19

A. Matthew 13:44-46 describes the Kingdom of God as a treasure and fine pearls. What about God's Kingdom power in your life has transformed something ordinary into something unique and transformative?

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 2 Corinthians 4:17

B. What are some momentary troubles that God is giving you the patience to endure for the sake of His glory?