

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH
BIG IDEA: Once we believe, we have a responsibility to guard, practice and share the truth.
DATE: Wednesday, November 18 and Sunday, November 22, 2026
SCRIPTURE: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; 3:7-10; 13 (CSB)

OPENING QUESTION

What is your favorite court room drama? *What did you like about it? Have you ever testified in a court of law? What was that experience like?*

SETTING THE STAGE

Paul was a balanced Christian who had a balanced ministry, and we see evidence of this as he brought his letter to a close. He moved from prophecy to practical Christian living. He turned from the negative (Satan's lies) to the positive (God's truth), and from warning to thanksgiving and prayer. Paul's emphasis was on the truth of God's Word, in contrast to Satan's great lie, which Paul discussed in the previous section.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; 3:7-10; 13 (CSB)
13But we ought to thank God always for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because
from the beginning God has chosen you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and
through belief in the truth. 14He called you to this through our gospel, so that you might obtain
the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. 15So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold to the
traditions you were taught, whether by what we said or what we wrote. 16May our Lord Jesus
Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal encouragement and
good hope by grace, 17encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word.

37For you yourselves know how you should imitate us: We were not idle among you; 8we did
not eat anyone's food free of charge; instead, we labored and toiled, working night and day, so
that we would not be a burden to any of you. 9It is not that we don't have the right to support,
but we did it to make ourselves an example to you so that you would imitate us. 10In fact, when
we were with you, this is what we commanded you: "If anyone isn't willing to work, he should
not eat."

13But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary in doing good.

DISCUSSION

BELIEVE THE TRUTH
READ: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Why does Paul review their salvation experience here, after talking so much about the end-time?

Which of these stages do you think about the least? Why?

GUARD THE TRUTH
READ: 2 Thessalonians 2:15

What does it mean to guard the truth? What is the truth we must guard? How do we distinguish between human's truth and God's truth?

In what ways can we take part in guarding God's truth?

PRACTICE THE TRUTH
READ: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 and 3:7-10

What has a greater impact – a godly teaching or a godly example? Who has been a godly example in your life? What are some ways you are a good example for other believers? How has someone in this group been a godly example to you?

How did Paul make himself an example for the young believers in how to live out a life of faith?

SHARE THE TRUTH:
What does Paul teach us in 2 Thessalonians about the role of sharing our faith with others? Why was that critical to the early church? Why is that critical today?

How comfortable are you sharing your faith with others? What challenges do you face in sharing the gospel?

Circle up in groups of 3-4 and ask for volunteers to share their salvation story.
Summarize your salvation story. What drew you to Christ? What was your life like before Christ, how did you meet Him; how has your life changed because of it? What roles did other believers play in your story? Where was God throughout your journey to salvation?

GOING FORWARD

As God's disciples, we must be sharing the truth, for He will one day return and ask for an accounting of our lives. If we fulfill our duty to believe the truth, guard the truth, practice the truth, and share the truth, we will experience joy and power in our lives, and growth and blessing in our churches.

Wiersbe, Warren. *Be Ready: Living in Light of Christ's Return.* David C. Cook, ©1979
Wiersbe, Warren. *The Wiersbe Bible Study Series: Living in Light of Christ's Return.* David C. Cook, ©2014