

**Grace Community Church
Redeemed Motivations
April 12, 2026**

HOME GROUP QUESTIONS

1. **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16**, piecing together the accusations Paul was responding to as you go along. Share if you have ever been similarly accused? How did you respond? In what way might one of these accusations hit a little too close to home as a real struggle for you?
2. **Read 2:1-2**. Share of a time you have been emboldened to share the gospel in the midst of conflict. Share if you have ever been shamefully treated or suffered in any way for sharing the gospel. Share any fruit that was still produced from ministering through conflict.
3. **Read 2:3-4**. In what ways might someone be most tempted to please man instead of God with their words? How can we be encouraged from these two verses to speak the truth?
4. **Read 2:5-8**. Share an experience with a spiritual nurturer from either a nurturer (supplier) or a child's (recipient) perspective.
5. **Read 2:9-10**. In what ways might someone be tempted to minister/serve for their own benefit?
6. **Read 2:11-12**. In what way are you currently, have you recently, or are you moved to, encourage someone to walk in a manner worthy of God? How do you explain "walking in a manner worthy of God" to a new believer?
7. **Read 2:13**. Reflect on the role of spoken words in your receiving the word of God.
8. **Read 2:14-16**. In what ways can you prepare your heart and mind for when suffering comes? How would you respond to someone who says the Bible supports antisemitism?
9. **Review the sermon points**. Which do you want to be most true about you? End your time encouraging and praying for one another toward this end.

SERMON NOTES

Scripture References

- Matthew 16:24—Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
- John 14:19—Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.
- Romans 8:31—What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
- 1 Corinthians 9:11—If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?
- 1 Corinthians 9:14—In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.
- Luke 10:7—And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.
- Romans 9:3—For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.
- Acts 9:4—And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”
- Acts 7:58—Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Quotes

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer – “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”
- Ligon Duncan—“Paul’s position as an apostle was a special one, but he never abused it. He sought to make himself low so that no one could accuse him of self-promotion or self-seeking. This is an immense challenge for us today—whatever our position in the church. It’s so easy to want people to admire and look up to us; it’s so tempting to think that we should be rewarded for our service. But Paul calls us to have the same mindset that was in Christ Jesus: Philippians 2:6-8.

- [Not St. Francis of Assisi](#)—"Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary."

Sermon Outline

Main point of the text: Paul shares what motivations embolden him to share the gospel of God despite suffering.

Main point of the sermon: Redeemed motivations embolden us to share the gospel of God despite suffering.

Title: Redeemed Motivations

- To declare the gospel of God in suffering (1-2)
- To please God (3-4)
- To nurture others (5-8)
- To be an example (9-10)
- To give instruction (11-12)
- For the word of God to be accepted (13)
- For suffering to be expected (14-16)
 - A Christian's suffering isn't the exception (14)
 - A Christian's suffering isn't just personal (15-16a)
 - A Christian's suffering is not the wrath of God (16b)