

**Grace Community Church
A Redeemed Longing
April 19, 2026**

HOME GROUP QUESTIONS

1. **Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13.** Name someone who acts/has acted as a Paul in your life, longing for your maturity in Christ. Name a Thessalonian(s) in your life who is your glory and joy.
2. **Read Matthew 6:19-21.** Name one affection or longing the Lord changed in you after becoming a Christian, sharing a way your focus moved from temporal to eternal. How might someone “lay up for yourself treasures in heaven?”
3. **Read 2:17-20.** What is Paul talking about when he talks about boasting before the Lord Jesus at his second coming?
4. **Read 3:1-5.** Does anyone’s version translate verse 2 differently? Why might some versions, such as the NIV, not translate Timothy as “God’s coworker?” What may have been Paul’s motivation in giving Timothy such a title? How can Paul’s sacrificially sending of Timothy move you to consider your willingness to sacrifice what/who is dear to you for the cause of evangelism and/or discipleship?
5. **Read 3:6-8.** How does Paul’s taking comfort in the good news from the Thessalonians challenge us re-evaluate and adjust what report we long to hear from those most dear to us?
6. **Read 3:9-13.** Who can you reach out to this week, or who can you plan to see, to hear how they are maturing in Christ? Review the points on prayer (listed under the Sermon Notes section) and end your time praying by name for the “Thessalonians” the Lord has laid on your heart.

SERMON NOTES

Scripture References

- Galatians 1:23–24— [23] They only were hearing it said, ‘He who used to persecute us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.’ [24] And they glorified God because of me.”
- Matthew 6:19-21— [19] Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, [20] but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21] For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- 2 Corinthians 12:7— [7] So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.
- 1 Timothy 1:2— [2] To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Quotes

- [Read about C.T. Studd; The Cambridge Seven](#)

- C.T. Studd’s poem entitled “Only One Life.”

Two little lines I heard one day, Traveling along life’s busy way;
Bringing conviction to my heart, And from my mind would not depart;
Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in ‘that day’ my Lord to meet, And stand before His Judgment seat;
Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.

Only one life, the still small voice, Gently pleads for a better choice
Bidding me selfish aims to leave, And to God’s holy will to cleave;
Only one life, ’twill soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last.

Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
Each with its days I must fulfill, living for self or in His will;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

When this bright world would tempt me sore, When Satan would a victory score;
When self would seek to have its way, Then help me Lord with joy to say;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Give me Father, a purpose deep, In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e'er the strife, Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Oh let my love with fervor burn, And from the world now let me turn;
Living for Thee, and Thee alone, Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Only one life, yes only one, Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
And when at last I'll hear the call, I know I'll say 'twas worth it all";
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

- Ligon Duncan wrote of how Tim Keller once said to him, "When you're a parent, you are never more happy than your least happy child." Duncan then goes on to say:
That is how much parents care about the children's happiness and their well-being. If you have four kids and three of them are doing well in their faith but one of them is not, it weighs on you. You think about it all the time because you want each one of them to be happy—eternally happy. So when they come through those trying times you say, "Yes, I can live again. My children are standing firm in Christ. They're growing in faith

and love.” That’s the kind of emotional investment that Paul is expressing here. *I was dying inside when I thought that you weren’t doing well. Now I can live again.*¹

Sermon Outline

Main Point of the Text: Paul is assuring the Thessalonians of his commitment to them, his concern for them, and the comfort he received from them despite their being separated.

Main point of the sermon: Mature Christians long to see Maturing Christians.

Title: A Redeemed Longing

- Maturing Christians are our glory and joy (2:17-20)
- Sacrificially send to where you cannot go (3:1-5)
- Let their steadfastness in faith comfort you (6-8)
- Pray for their preparation for eternity (9-13)
 - Thank God for his working (9)
 - Pray for opportunities to instruct in the faith (10)
 - Pray for all obstacles to be removed (11)
 - Pray for them to be known by love (12)
 - Pray they are prepared for Jesus’ return (13)

¹ Ligon Duncan, [1 & 2 Thessalonians for You](#), ed. Carl Laferton, God’s Word for You (The Good Book Company, 2023), 72.