2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

* Day 1

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

2:16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself

 and God our Father,

 who has loved us

 and given us

 eternal comfort

 and good hope

 by grace,

2:17 comfort

 and strengthen your hearts

 in every good work and word.

1. Verse 16 starts off with “Now may”, what kind of a sentence is this? What would Paul be doing?
2. What are the titles used for Jesus and God? What meaning is conveyed when the possessive pronoun “our” is added to the titles for Jesus and God.
3. What does the “Himself” clarify as it is mixed with these names and titles of Jesus and God?
4. In addition to the titles, Paul clarifies even more about the subjects of these verses. Looking at the clause “who has loved us”, who is it describing?
* Day 2

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 again.

1. The “who” clause has two verbal participles as well. Participles are verbs but are used generally to describe something about another noun. What are these two participles and what do they inform us about God’s character? What do the inform us about the recipients of those actions?
2. In the NASB the word “comfort” is used both in v16 and v17, both come from the same Greek root, one is a noun, the other is a verb. It can be both “comfort” or “encourage”. How does God give “eternal” encouragement or comfort based on the prior context?
3. In addition to receiving “comfort” the Thessalonians were also given “hope”. What kind of hope is “good hope” based on the prior context? What would be the opposite of “good hope”?
4. “By grace” indicates the “source” of this good hope and eternal comfort and answers the question, “how were these things given”? Based on verse 13, what is the “by” phrase there and how does it relate to this phrase “by grace”?
5. Meditate on verse 16 after this study. Rest our mind on who God is and what He has done that gives a hope that is beyond all comprehension. Notice how much intention is given to describe God and his work, which will be the action of these verses in verse 17. Write down a sentence or more of your reflection on this verse to capture your thoughts and prepare for discussion.
* Day 3

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 again.

1. Read verses 16 and 17 together, noticing that the verbs that Paul is requesting God to do “now” are both here. What are those two main verbs and what relationship do they have with the participles in verse 16, describing has already been doing?
2. The word “comfort” is the same root word from above, meaning “encourage”, “comfort” and even “exhort”. What is the target for this “comfort” or “encouragement”? Why would that be the target over our minds? Is there a difference?
3. The word “comfort” is the same root word from above, meaning “encourage”, “comfort” and even “exhort”. What is the target for this “comfort” or “encouragement”? Why would that be the target over our minds? Is there a difference?
4. What would be “good words” and what would be the opposite?
5. Back to “strengthen your hearts”, how are hearts strengthened in good works and words? How often is your heart strengthened?
6. Meditate on verse 17, reflecting on how often you are walking in this manner. If not daily and every work and word is proceeding, then we have room for growth (always). If you feel you are doing well, spend time with others who can be encouraged by you and examine your life to help you view yourself as well. Write down a least a sentence to discuss this meditation on the word and discuss.

In preparation for Sunday, pray …

* Our hearts to open to be “encouraged” and “strengthened”
* God’s character would be the basis for our faith – we would seek to know Him more fully in who He is, not who we want or think He “should” be.
* Seek to walk in faith in “word” and “work” in everything we do