

THESSALONIANS 1&2 — STEADFAST UNTIL HIS COMING: LIVING A LIFE OF FAITH, LOVE, AND HOPE IN CHRIST

Instructors: Kurt Sheu & Jeff Brown

Date & Time: Tuesdays 8:00-9:00 PM ET (September 23 - November 18)

Class Size: No limit

Course Description:

This nine-week course, "Steadfast Until His Coming: Living a Life of Faith, Love, and Hope in Christ," is designed to equip participants with the essential principles for living a steadfast Christian life while eagerly awaiting the return of Christ. The curriculum will guide participants through key themes from 1, 2 Thessalonians and other biblical passages. We will focus on developing a dynamic faith, practicing sacrificial love, cultivating enduring hope, and living in a manner that honors God. The goal is to build a practical and joyful understanding of what it means to be a faithful follower of Christ preparing for His return.

Course Objectives:

- Articulate and practice an active faith that is demonstrated through trust and obedience
- Understand and apply the biblical concept of sacrificial love in service to others.
- Cultivate a sustained hope in Christ's return that provides endurance during trials.
- Live with a daily awareness of God's presence, striving to please Him in all things.
- Pursue personal holiness and sanctification as a reflection of God's will.
- Engage confidently in faithful witness and evangelism through both words and actions.
- Contribute to the health and unity of the Body of Christ by using their spiritual gifts.
- Embrace a lifestyle of continuous rejoicing, prayer, and thanksgiving.

Course structure: Each week:

1. the first part of the class we will all review 1 chapter from the Thessalonian letters
2. the second part of the class we will have a special topic related to the content of the letters

Week 1: Overview (Acts 17) and "the "unceasing work of faith," — emphasizing an active, not passive, belief that is evident in trusting God in every circumstance and demonstrating obedience that flows from that belief.

Week 2: 1 Thessalonians chapter 1 and the "labor of love," — which is characterized by sacrificial service to others and serves as the primary motive for all actions.

Week 3: 1 Thessalonians chapter 2 and "patience of hope in Christ,"— which will focus on hope as a sustaining force through trials and a source of endurance, anchored in the promise of Christ's return

Week 4: 1 Thessalonians chapter 3 and "living before God the Father," — a practice of conscious daily living in God's presence, striving to please Him rather than others

Week 5: 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 and "eagerly awaiting Christ's return" — living in readiness and watchfulness, encouraging one another with this hope

Week 6: 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 and "holiness and sanctification" as God's will for believers

Week 7: 2 Thessalonians chapter 1 and "faithful witness and evangelism," —encouraging participants to share the gospel and be examples to others

Week 8: 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 and "building the body of Christ" through encouragement, unity, and the use of spiritual gifts

Week 9: 2 Thessalonians chapter 3 and to cultivate a lifestyle of "rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, and giving thanks in everything". This includes studying relevant biblical passages like those in NT and OT.