



STUDY GUIDE

ENCOURAGED 07.23.2017

[set up]

Last Sunday Pastor Josh concluded our series entitled, “Encouraged.” Looking back, what was one of the biggest insights you got from the book of 1 Thessalonians?

Last two weeks we have talked about being spiritually awake. On a scale of 1-10, 10 being wide awake, how spiritually awake do you feel? Why?

[digging deeper]

Have you ever had a bad experience with authority? Of course you have! Have one or two people share that story.

What makes bad experiences with authority so frustrating? Why is it different than having a bad experience at, say, a restaurant or with a salesperson?

In 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul commands the church in Thessalonica to respect and esteem the pastors/elders of the church. That command does not mean that pastors and elders are to be respected and esteemed if they are not acting in a way that is biblically qualifying.

Read Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7. On a piece of paper, list the qualifications of a pastor/elder in one column. In order for a church to respect and esteem their pastor, he must abide by the qualifications.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Paul outlines how Christians are to admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, and help the weak. Of the three categories, what is easiest for you to do? Which is hardest for you to do? Why?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22. It says to “test everything; hold fast to what is good.” Can you think of other Bible passages that give direction on how to spiritually discern if the Holy Spirit is leading in an area?

If someone came up to you and shared with you something they felt the Holy Spirit showed them, but you felt was possibly not from the Holy Spirit, how would you handle that? What would you do and say? Can you support what you said with Bible verses?

In 1 Thessalonians 3 and 5, the apostle Paul used the term “will of God.” Read both of those places. One is about sexual holiness and the other about personal joy and spirituality. How are both of those connected? How have you seen those manifest in your life?

[living it out]

Spend some time praying for CVC's Elders by name.

Current Elders:

Chad Allen
Doug Back
Tim Brooks
Ted Chase
Larry Domzalski
Wayne Douglas
Duane Myatt

This is the week of Sports Camp. Spend some time praying for that program that boys and girls will come to faith in Jesus.

This Sunday we start a new series called, "Ancient Ways for the Modern Family" where we will be looking at biblical parenting and families. Who can you invite to this new series?