



A Church for the Future

1 Thessalonians | 15 Oct - 3 Dec



Wk 2

TODAY'S 9:45AM SERVICE

- Welcome
- Songs
- Confession & Assurance
- Spotlight
- Bible Reading:
1 Thessalonians
2:1-16 (p. 1186)
- Sermon
- Prayers
- Announcements
- Song
- Conclusion

Most St Stephen's collection is received electronically.
BSB: 062 272
Account Number:
00490436

If you are a visitor please don't feel obliged to contribute financially.

Sunday 22 October 2023

Our 9:45am service is live streamed to our YouTube and Facebook Channels. If you don't wish to feature on our stream, please occupy the pews towards the back.

Welcome to St Stephen's! We're so glad to have you with us! We think there is no better place to be on Sunday. We would love to hear how you found church or if anything we mentioned has got you interested in more information. You can take a moment and let us know via the QR Code Connect Card (paper copy inside too).



We have started a new series looking at a very old letter, written close to the time of Jesus' death and resurrection. It's a glimpse at the early church. More than that, it is written by the Apostle Paul as an insight into the kind of people and church God is establishing. We believe the Bible is crucial in living out our lives because it is constantly nudging us to shape our lives around Jesus.

If you have never really read the Bible before, you are in the right place! Welcome. We hope we can help you.

Next Steps

Are you new? We would love to meet you. Hear a brief intro on the life of our church at our next **Newish Morning Tea** on Sunday 29 October. It runs for ½ an hour straight after the service.

Been regularly coming? If you are a regular member of our church, we encourage you to attend our next **Belonging Course** on Sunday 19 November. Belonging is the gateway to our GaP Groups, serving and deeper connection with the community.

Prayers for the Service

These prayers are used during the service. Prayer is a privilege we are given because Christ died for us. His death & resurrection means we can confidently approach God seeking forgiveness (Hebrews 10:22). If you believe that Christ died to deal with your failings then you should be confident to pray with us. If you are still exploring who Christ is then feel free to listen in.

A Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed:
we have not loved you with our whole heart,
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:
we repent and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

The Lord's Prayer

This is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Matthew 6:5-14).

Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever
Amen.

Sermon Notes

The Need for Integrity | 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

Preacher: Prashanth Colombage

1. A minister with integrity (vv. 1-12)

(a) Paul's Model

(b) Paul's realisation

2. A people with integrity

(a) Imitation of the churches

(b) Dangers of praise

3. Integrity worth dying for

Gospel and Prayer (GaP) Group Study

1. What role can the opinions of others have on:
 - a. Your ability to serve God's mission; and
 - b. Your ability to submit to God's word?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

- A. What ways does Paul describe his ministry?
- B. How does Paul describe his attitude toward, and relationship with, the Thessalonians?
- C. What is Paul thankful for?
- D. What made his ministry hard?
- E. What did Paul seek to avoid in his ministry?
- F. Why did the Thessalonians suffer?

2. What is inspiring & challenging about the model of leadership Paul describes in this chapter?

3. Paul established expectations for every church (member and leader) through the example of the Thessalonians. How would you summarise these? Which is most challenging for you?

4. Reflect on your answers to question 1. Are you aware of the impact of people's words and opinions on your life as a follower of Jesus? How can you be more confronted by the unhelpful impact it might have?

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17

5. How has Jesus's ministry to Paul shaped his ministry? What has Jesus given him? Is that relevant to what we've been discussing?

6. How can the good news which Paul lives off help you extinguish the power of other people's opinions? How can it make our church vibrant in line with the example of the Thessalonians?

Prayer Time

A. Does the Holy Spirit bear witness with your spirit that you are child of God because of faith in the gospel? Ask him to do so.

B. Pray your status as one loved by God might shape your attitude to God and his people.



GaP Group Reflection

Watch the video provided to your GaP Group leader and consider the following questions:

- i. Ask those who attended the pub event, Conversations about the Good Life, on Tuesday, to reflect on it. If you meet prior, discuss who you would like to bring.
- ii. Pray for those you are inviting / brought to the event.

Read the Bible with us!

1. What example are you encouraged to follow/do?
2. How does the gospel (What Jesus offers you) give you hope and comfort in this task?
3. Pray God will make his love for you more real today.

Monday - [1 Thess 2:2](#)

Tuesday - [1 Thess 2:3](#)

Wednesday - [1 Thess 2:4-6](#)

Thursday - [1 Thess 2:7a](#)

Friday - [1 Thess 2:7b-8](#)

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT
THE GOOD life
AT WILLOUGHBY HOTEL

We rarely talk and think about the things that really matter in life. Come to the pub for a drink and feed, and hear a panel of people from different professions and walks of life talk about our dreams for purpose, meaning and fulfilment in life –*the good life*.

Tuesday 24 October 7-9pm



DR. JUSTINE TOH

Justine is the author of the book, *Achievement Addiction*. She worked at Reuters Australia and Fairfax Digital Media before completing her PhD in cultural studies at Macquarie University. She has appeared on the ABC and writes occasionally for The Guardian on the topics of freedom & individualism, trends in contemporary culture, and our addiction to achievement.



PRASHANTH COLOMBAGE

Prashanth is the Senior Minister at St Stephen's Willoughby. Before starting as an Anglican minister, he worked as a commercial litigation lawyer at Hunt & Hunt. His clients included Boral, NRMA and a bunch of truck drivers who took on a global company and won. He has degrees in English Literature, Law and Theology.



Visit st-stephens.com.au/spring to RSVP today

Notices

Newish Morning Tea

Our next Newish runs on Sunday 29 October after the 9:45am service!

We are so blessed to have visitors to our church most weeks of the year. We want to help new people find their way to the centre of the church community.

We run Newish monthly to help you take the 1st small steps. Newish is a ½ hr morning tea (great food!) which introduces you to staff, a few regulars, and the basics of our church community with no ongoing commitment required.

Let us know you are interested through the Connect Card.

Friday Kids & HPS Youth Update

Friday Kids

Praise God for the growing number of kids coming to Friday Kids. We finished the term with 15-20 kids coming regularly. The majority are SRE kids who don't come from Christian families. Please pray that these kids will come to know Jesus and keep inviting their friends.

Youth

Praise God for a wonderful youth camp. Not only did we have heaps of fun but the youth learnt so much. Please pray for this term for more people to come and for youth to continue to grow in their love and knowledge of Jesus!



What's Coming Up

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| 29 October | Newish Morning Tea |
| 31 October | Life Course - Week 1 |
| 11 November | Prayer Morning & Morning Tea |
| 19 November | Belonging Course |
| 9 December | Carols on the Grass |

For more on what's happening this spring at St Stephen's, visit st-stephens.com.au/spring

Our Staff - Contact Us!



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