

Philippians 1:8-11

“For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

LITTLE TWIGGS: In our weekly gatherings we engage in teaching God's truth and responding through singing, collective prayer and liturgical readings. We believe it is important for our children to see, hear, and experience God's Word and His people responding in worship. In this way we corporately seek to raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph 6:4), so children remain in worship and teaching with the adults.

Here are a few ideas to engage your little ones in the service today:

- Each week sermon passages are listed in the handout; before church on Sunday read the Scripture being taught out loud as a family and pick out key words in the passage.
- Have your children listen and - pat your arm, make a mark, draw a circle, or count the number of times those key words come up in the sermon.
- Incentivize success with rewards or snacks
- Pick up a “Little Twigs” plastic tote in the entry way before church.
- Ask your little one to draw a picture of the things they are hearing in the sermon.
- Have your child help with offering.
- After church take your child to “Little Twigs” where they hear a summary of the sermon, ask them what they learned.

August 3, 2025

Today's Order of Service:

- Call to Worship: Philippians 1:8-11
- Romans 11 Doxology
- Reading: 1689, Christ the Mediator
- O Great God

Teaching: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-10, “Now we Live”

- Collection of Tithes and Offerings
- Christ is All
- Amazing Grace
- Before the Throne of God Above
- Old 100th Doxology

Upcoming Sermon Topics: (also see website)

August 3: King of the Day, 1 Thessalonians 3:1-10
August 10: King of the Day, 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
August 17: King of the Day, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
August 24: King of the Day, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
August 31: King of the Day, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Upcoming Events:

August 20: V&B Family Meeting
August 28-29: Blue Collar Confessionalism Conf. (Batavia, OH)
September 3: Growth Groups Start up; Season 2
October 15-18: V&B Family Camp Out; Camp Warford

Please check out <https://vineandbranch.family/> for a more detailed **calendar of events**, weekly sermon series and study passages, and to access previous sermons on both our website and Spotify.

THE WORKSHOP: Men's Bible Study. Meets the FIRST Sunday morning of every month at 7:30 a.m. Meeting location: 4H fairground Building. Next Meeting: Sept 7th.

CONNECTING: If you cannot attend in person, you can join us by clicking the button on our home page at vineandbranch.family If you would like to be put on our email list, send an email to iansmith@ianlabs.com

MEMBERSHIP: If you have a desire to intentionally confirm your commitment and accountability to the Vine & Branch Church family, please contact Robb; robb@besosa.family

Main Point: *The True Meaning of LIFE is seeing Christ formed in others; in aiding their preparation for the day of the LORD.*

CONTEXT: The Thessalonians' response to the Gospel—their labor of love, work of faith, and steadfast hope—is living proof that the Gospel is bearing fruit... and this fills Paul with immense joy and gratitude.

- One of the most profound reasons for rejoicing in the Gospel is that it addresses humanity's greatest need: **salvation from God's wrath**.
- Seeing others rescued and growing in faith is the ultimate fulfillment of life's purpose... = One of THE main ways we glorify GOD.

1 Thessalonians 3:1-10:

3:1-2: Sending Timothy Out of Concern

- Driven by urgent concern for the Thessalonians' enduring faith under relentless persecution, Paul and his companions **dispatch Timothy**. With the clear mission to **strengthen** and **exhort** the Thessalonians, ensuring their hope in Christ remains **unwavering** and **steadfast**.

3:3-5: Protecting Faith Amid Affliction

- Paul reminds them that suffering is part of the Christian life
- Paul's concern is the tempter might undermine their faith
- Like with the Galatians, expresses a longing to see "*Christ to be formed*" (Gal 4:19)

3:6-10: Joy in the Thessalonians' Faith & Thanksgiving

- Timothy's report is **great news**—proof that the Thessalonians are remaining steadfast in hope.
- **Their spiritual progress is life-giving to the Apostles**
- Paul's response overflows in **thanks** (3:9):
- Verse, 10 + 8 is the heart of the passage. Paul's deepest desire is to nurture believers faith, to see Christ fully formed in them. "*I will most gladly **spend and be spent** for your souls.*" (2 Cor 12:15)
- The Gospel is having its full effect; people are being saved from wrath unto righteousness... and there is NOTHING on earth as satisfying as this; loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself!
- The deep longing for good overcoming evil, justice served—is satisfied in Christ, He is the ultimate hero of good vs. evil.

Application: Living for Christ Formed in Others

- 1. Repent of Sin: Are you jealous or resentful at what God is doing in the lives of others?**
 - This reveals **deficiency**, and **self-centeredness**.
 - We must admit **our sin**, **rejoice** in the Gospel that saves us from ourselves, **repent** = change mindset & actions.
- 2. Investing in Others' Faith:** How are you intentionally building up someone in our church family to help them grow in Christ?
- 3. Joy in Spiritual Growth:** How is the spiritual development of others a driving passion in your life?
- 4. Sacrificial Love:** Is the spiritual development of others a driving passion in your life... beyond what is comfortable or familiar?
- 5. Gospel-Driven Encouragement:** How does this **confidence** in the Gospel's power inspire you to take a practical step this week to help someone in our church grow stronger in their trust in Christ?