

OIL 2020: “One for All, All for One”
Thursday Morning Quiet Time
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Introduction

Having just entered into a new year, the way we start is very important. The beginning of a new year can be a frenzied time filled with busyness when our relationship with God can often take a back seat. However, one of the blessings of attending OIL is that it provides the opportunity to reflect on the past year and to seek the Lord for all that is to come.

In this passage, Paul begins his letter by thanking God for the faith, love and hope of the Thessalonian believers (vv. 2-3). It seems as though the starting point of ministry for Paul was to give thanks to God and to remember His faithfulness. Before delving into the various problems that had risen in the young Thessalonian church, Paul reassures them of their salvation in Jesus Christ. He also encourages them by reminding them of the joy they first experienced when they heard the gospel (v. 6), which overflowed as a powerful witness to many (v. 8).

The theme for OIL this year comes from Romans 5:17, which highlights the, “*abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness*” made available through Christ alone. May this foundational truth of Christ’s love become the launching pad and starting point for OIL 2020 as well as the rest of our lives.

Commentary

[1:1] church of the Thessalonians – Paul and his companions likely planted the first Christian church in this city in AD 50. However, they had to leave abruptly, and so Paul writes to answer questions they had and also to commend them for their faithfulness.

[1:6] in much affliction – Even though the Thessalonians received the gospel of Jesus Christ with great joy, it also led to great suffering and persecution from both Jews and Gentiles (3:2-4; Acts 17:5).

Read: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Questions:

1. What is Paul seeking to accomplish in this passage as he writes to the Thessalonian church?
2. How is this passage relevant to you as you are here at OIL 2020?

OIL 2020: “One for All, All for One”
Friday Morning Quiet Time
Exodus 15:22-27

Introduction

During seasons of spiritual drought and moments when we feel like we’re wandering in the wilderness, the Lord graciously desires to nourish His people.

In this passage God has just led the Israelites across the Red Sea and delivered them from the Egyptians. However, in the aftermath of this miraculous event, they find themselves in the desert. The water is too bitter to drink, and the people begin to complain. In this moment Moses cries out to the Lord in prayer. Not only does the Lord answer and make the water at Marah drinkable, He reminds them that He is their healer (v. 26). So long as the Israelite’s remain faithful to God’s word, their obedience will become a channel of the Lord’s ongoing protection and blessing.

As we study this passage may we learn to see God’s grace and provision throughout every season.

Read: Exodus 15:22-27

Commentary

[15:24] grumbled against Moses – Even though the Lord had just led Israel through the waters of the Red Sea, they quickly forget to trust in His protection and provision.

[15:27] Elim – This was likely a local oasis, which demonstrated to the Israelites once again that the Lord was working on their behalf and graciously leading them.

Questions:

1. Have there ever been instances in your life when you have found yourself grumbling to the Lord?

2. How is this passage relevant to you as you are here at OIL 2020?

OIL 2020: “One for All, All for One”
Saturday Morning Quiet Time
Luke 10:38-42

Introduction

As we prepare for post-OIL, may we prayerfully consider this morning various convictions and takeaways from this year’s conference.

Life always seems to move faster than we expect. As we are constantly bombarded with emails, deadlines and to-do lists, everything always seems to be ‘most urgent’ in the moment. However, in our passage for today, Jesus simply says, “one things ie necessary” (v. 42). This is not the call to be idle, but rather the call to prioritize the word of God in one’s active life of service to the Lord.

Commentary

[39]: sat at the Lord’s feet – It was not permitted for women to receive formal instruction from a Jewish rabbi at the time. Mary is breaking cultural norms and barriers to be with Jesus.

[40]: Martha was distracted – The word “distracted” means to be pulled away. Martha desired to be with Jesus in that she was a believer and lover of Christ. However, she was pulled away by her desire to prepare an elaborate meal.

[42]: good portion – Jesus is using figurative language to suggest that Mary had actually chosen the “better meal” in comparison to the meal Martha had busily been preparing.

Read: Luke 10:38-42

Questions:

1. Despite Martha’s good intentions to serve and welcome Jesus (v. 38), she gets distracted. What are some things that pull you away from sitting at Jesus’ feet?

2. How is this passage relevant to you as you prepare to leave OIL?