

# Sermon Discussion Guide

*The Lord's Peace, Presence, and Grace*

2 Thessalonians 3:16–18

## The peace of the Lord (16)

Num. 6:22–27; 1 Thess. 5:23; Col. 1:20–22; Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:6–7

Paul prayed that the Lord would give peace to a church whose peace was being threatened from both the inside (e.g. idle members and false teaching) and the outside (e.g. persecution from unbelievers).

- Where do you tend to look for peace? To whom does Paul appeal for peace?
- Why can believers have peace in every circumstance—even difficult ones?
- What is one of the key ways we can experience the Lord's peace in difficult circumstances (see Phil. 4:6–7)?
- In the midst of trials do you tend to turn to prayer as a last resort? Why?

## The presence of the Lord (16)

Ps. 139:7–10; Ex. 29:45–46; John 14:16–17; Ps. 23:1–4; Isa. 41:10; 43:1–2; 2 Tim. 4:16–18; Heb. 13:5–6

Paul prayed that the Thessalonians would know the presence of the Lord.

- If God is everywhere (i.e. he's omnipresent), why does Paul pray that the Lord would be with believers?
- When Scripture says the Lord is with his people, what is he present to do for us (see Isa. 41:10; 43:1–2 and 2 Tim. 4:16–18)?
- Do you struggle with believing the Lord is with you when life is difficult? How can you fight to believe his promise (recall Martyn Lloyd-Jones' counsel to talk to yourself instead of listening to yourself)?

## The grace of the Lord (18)

Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8–9; Titus 2:14; Phil. 2:12–13; 1 Pet. 1:3–5

Paul concluded 2 Thessalonians by pointing his readers to the grace of Jesus Christ.

- As a believer do you tend to try to relate to God based on your performance (e.g. your obedience, your attempts to be a good Christian)?
- Does your understanding of grace go beyond grace for forgiveness and justification?
- How might understanding that God's grace also changes you, enables you to obey him, and preserves you affect the way you think about your relationship with God?