

Grace Downtown CG Discussion Guide

March 25-28 2019

Series: Asking God

1 Thess. 1:1-11



Announcements:

Just Homes Benefit Concert

Local band *Spoken in Music* featuring Andrew Russell on vocals and Spoken Word poet Mazaré, will be holding a concert benefiting Just Homes at The Village Cafe, near Union Market. **April 5 at 7:00 pm.** Advanced ticket purchase via our website is recommended.

Intro to Grace Downtown: Interested in learning about Grace Downtown's vision and history as well as our community? Join us for this seminar which serves as the first step toward membership, but does not obligate you to become a member. Lunch is provided. Registration required. **Sat April 6, 9:00 to 3:30 pm** Contact Bryan at bryan@gracedc.net with any questions.

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday will be held at **6:30 pm** at Grace Meridian Hill and Good Friday will be held at **6:30 pm** at Grace Mosaic. See the website for more information.

Grace Downtown Women's Retreat: Save the Date! **Sat May 18**, come retreat with other women of Grace Downtown for the opportunity to hear teaching, deepen friendships and have time for reflection. We will gather for breakfast in the morning, study God's word together, connect over lunch in small groups, and depart in the early evening. If you are interested in helping with organization and planning, please email the WLC at wlc@gracedc.net.

Introduction:

For the next three weeks leading up to Easter we will be discussing Scriptural passages that refer to Christ's death and resurrection. This week's passage (1 Thess 5:1-11) is not one of the typical Scriptures that is read in light of Good Friday and Easter. But hopefully the connection will be seen after we've studied it some.

How often do you think about the fact that Jesus is going to return to earth one day? Why is Jesus' return a good thing--for the world as a whole, and for you, personally? What difference does this future fact make in how you live your life now?

Read and Discuss:

1 Thess 5:1-11

1. Read the passage out loud, then take 2 or 3 minutes quietly for personal study.
2. In vv. 1-3, what is Paul's main point about the time of Jesus' return? How should Christians and non-Christians think differently about when Jesus will return?
3. List all the different times in this passage Paul refers to "day" and "night". What is his main point here? In what sense are Christians not in the dark, and how does this affect how they think about Christ's return? In what ways do people in the light think and act differently from people who are in darkness?
4. In v. 8, what are the specific actions Paul calls Christians to do? Why do they naturally follow from, "Since we belong to the day, let us..."?
5. In v. 10, how does Jesus' death affect how we live as we await his Second Coming? (What does it mean: "Whether we are 'awake' or 'asleep'?)
6. From v. 11, what would it look like, practically, for us to encourage one another based on all Paul has said in vv. 1-10?

Summary and Application

1. What in this passage keeps you from living apathetically, but instead with an active sense of expectancy and hope?
2. What, very practically, would it look like for you this week to live life with "alertness" and "self-control" in light of Christ's death and Second Coming?
3. How can we apply v. 10 in practical ways?

Prayer

The Grace Downtown Prayer Team creates opportunities for our community to learn more about prayer together for our church family, our city, and our world. Throughout the coming week, the Prayer Team is asking our church community to pray...

...Lord, we thank you for the daily grace and mercy you provide. When we feel weak in body or soul, help us lean on you. Thank you that you understand what it means to have limits and to be in need.

...Thank you for the body of Christ here at Grace Downtown and around the world. Be with us as we seek to support one another. Be with our brothers and sisters in other countries who are persecuted for their faith. Help them to know they are not alone for you are with them.

...for Jesus to guide our hearts as we draw closer to him and to help us understand the gospel of grace more deeply. Ask the Lord for comfort and to bring healing to those in New Zealand after the recent tragedy.