

Dear Friends in Christ,

Only obvious things are obviously worth saying. When we get bored of the obvious, we become oblivious, and the obvious becomes a hated mystery. Churches that don't say a Creed on Sunday have members who can't articulate the doctrine of the Trinity or don't believe in the Trinity.

“Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thess 2:11-12).

During our Advent Wednesday services, we'll be reading through 2 Thessalonians. Here's a good time to reiterate that Advent services this year will be held at Trinity at 7pm; there will be no midweek services at Faith. If you throw a riot and demand services at Faith, we'll consider it for next year. But don't be the guy or gal who complains about no service and then doesn't show up when we have them. (That was an obvious thing that needed to be said!)

We've got 3 midweek services, and there's 3 chapters in 2 Thessalonians. How convenient! Paul says some really obvious things in 2 Thessalonians that we do well to dwell on. **“We ought always to give thanks to God...” (2 Thess 1:3).** In case you missed it the first time, he says a chapter later, **“But we ought always to give thanks to God” (2 Thess 2:13).** How much of our problems stem from ingratitude?

Paul also addresses the lazy in the church. **“If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat!” (2 Thess 3:10).** But then he also tells us to not be busybodies. We need to do something as we wait for Jesus to return, but let's make that something good, right, and salutary.

So here's our theme for Advent - “Christ is coming, so...” Paul's words are extremely practical. What's a Christian to do as we wait for Christ in this crazy world? Paul tells us how to live the Christian life. These are words we need to hear.

Here's a preview of what Paul tells us to do in 2 Thessalonians. Give thanks and do things that are worthy (ch 1). Don't be deceived, be aware of the coming lawlessness, and stand firm (ch 2). Pray, do something productive, and receive Christ's blessing (ch 3).

I gotta go so I can abide by Paul's words. There's always something more to say, but hopefully I never have to hit you with Heb 5:11 - **“About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.”**

Oh, real quick, here are some obvious things worth saying - God loves His creation, that's why He became a creature in the incarnation. God tells us how to live in the 10 Commandments. Don't live together if you're not married. Have family dinner and put the phones away. Sports

gambling is not worth it. You may have your funeral eulogy read at the reception or at the graveside, but the church service is a church service, and it's not good practice to give the pulpit to those who aren't called. Christmas is the most wonderful time of the year, so don't be grumpy when the whole world celebrates; maybe they don't know what they're celebrating, but nature attests to Christ's glory and we better be there to tell them why Christmas is so wonderful. I love being your pastor. I think that covers it.

In Christ,
Pastor