



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

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Scripture: 2 Thessalonians

TITLE: 2 Thessalonians – Get Moving

What motivates you to live for Christ? What is it that keeps you engaging in God’s Word daily? What motivates you to reach the lost? What keeps you engaging in everyday outreach?

Maybe you aren’t motivated to do either? If so, why?

For me, my motivation for living for Christ and reaching the lost comes down to one word: urgency. If you need some motivation to live for Christ and reach the lost, then the book of 2 Thessalonians is for you.

The Second Letter to the Thessalonians was written by our friend, the Apostle Paul. This letter was written around 51 A.D. and just a few months after he wrote the first letter to the Thessalonians. He’s writing from Corinth with Timothy and Silas. It’s likely that the bearer of the first letter saw some of the challenges and misunderstanding the Thessalonian church had. Paul wants to address these issues quickly to get them back on track.

So what exactly was happening with this church? The church was experiencing problems of religious persecution, doctrinal misunderstanding, and practical abuse. So the letter is broken down into three chapters or sections. In chapter one, Paul commends the church for their growing faith and love. He encourages them to not lose heart in the face of persecution. The wrong they experience will be judged fully.

Chapter two is a correction to their misunderstanding that the day of the Lord has already happened. This led to a practical error that Paul addresses in chapter three. As my friend Dr. Michael Frisina says, “Thinking drives our beliefs, which drives our behavior.” So this is why we better get our thinking right. That’s why Paul was addressing the church again.

So what’s the main thing from 2 Thessalonians? It’s urgency. We are called to live with an urgency in our hearts because the Day of the Lord is coming. Jesus’ return is imminent. This doesn’t mean we should stop what we’re doing and wait in our La-Z-Boys. It means we live on purpose and with a purpose of glorifying God and reaching the lost with the Gospel.

2 Thessalonians chapter 1 provides one of the most graphic and frightening descriptions of hell and the day of the Lord. This should drive us to live with urgency.

Paul writes this in 2 Thessalonians 1:7b-10 (CSB),

“This will take place at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his powerful angels, when he takes vengeance with flaming fire on those who don’t know God and on those

who don't obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction from the Lord's presence and from his glorious strength on that day when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marveled at by all those who have believed, because our testimony among you was believed."

Friend, Jesus is coming soon. He will be swift in dealing with His enemies. He will deliver rewards to His children. We must live with urgency in right living and everyday outreach.

So here's my challenge for you: get moving. The Day of the Lord is coming soon. The lost are perishing and have no hope apart from the grace of God. Will you deliver the life-saving Gospel? Jesus' return is imminent? Do you want to face him wasting your time or getting caught in sin? Or would you want to be found faithful? I know you want to live with urgency for the things that matter. So get moving.

When we live on purpose with urgency, we will win the day!