

1 and 2 Thessalonians

Messenger and His Message

Interpreting the Text:

1. Paul stresses that he sent Timothy to check in, but was upset that he himself could not visit in person. How does this relate to his remarks about caring for the community in chapter 2? Why is Paul emphasizing his desire to visit?
2. Paul prays to God that the Thessalonians will increase in love for God and one another. Why might Paul have prayed for this in particular? What echoes from the Gospels might it be drawing upon?

Applying the Text:

1. If Timothy was sent to your church to check-in, how would he report back? Would he say that you are strong in faith and love, or would there be concerns about the temptations of the world negatively impacting your community?
2. The reward Paul feels for the Thessalonians' faithfulness is joy. What ministries bring you joy? How do you see joy as a fruit of the spirit in your life?