

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Monday	1 Corinthians 14:1-40; Psalm 119:113-120; Proverbs 26:16-18
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-34; Psalm 119:121-128; Proverbs 26:19-22
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 15:35-58; Psalm 119:129-136; Proverbs 26:23-26
Thursday	1 Corinthians 16:1-24; Psalm 119:137-144; Proverbs 26:27-28
Friday	2 Corinthians 1:1-2:4; Psalm 119:145-152; Proverbs 27:1-4
Saturday	2 Corinthians 2:5-3:18; Psalm 119:153-160; Proverbs 27:5-7

DEVOTIONAL: READ 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

When Paul came to the people of Thessalonica after a rough time in Philippi, he shared that he came with no hidden motivation other than to share the good news with them. Paul, and those with him, went out of their way to work hard to provide for themselves, so they weren't a burden on those they were staying with. This was just one of the many ways Paul and his fellow believers modeled a Christ-centered life to the Thessalonians—a life that was full of patience, love, sacrifice, intentionality, and leadership.

Paul takes a selfless position for the sake of the gospel. For Paul and his fellow believers, it could have been so easy to come into Thessalonica and assume a position of authority because God, the ultimate King,

entrusted him to share this message with others. Yet, instead of having a pious attitude towards those who didn't know the good news, Paul and his fellow believers extended grace, love, intentionality, and servanthood towards all they encountered. They were truly being the hands and the feet of the Lord.

Each of us has some leadership responsibility in life; it may be in our career, family, school, or church. This authority can be used to show grace and serve, or it can be self-serving and dominant. Paul shows us that a life of service, patience, and love is truly the way of Christ-centered living and leadership—one that also has the greatest impact in this life and the next.

REFLECTION

Have you experienced a gospel-centered leadership like this before? How did it impact those under and around the leader?

How could you apply more servant-based leadership qualities in all areas of life? In what areas could you put this into practice?

How could you seek to intentionally grow as a spiritual leader? Who could help guide or train you in some way? Make a plan to find a mentor, join a training, do a study, or find another tangible way to grow.

DISCUSSION

What qualities do you think are most important in a leader? Why?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank You for the epic, transformational power of Your gospel. Your Word tells me that I was spiritually dead—lifeless, and without any hope—due to the infection of sin. But You, God, are worthy of all praise! In Your great mercy, You made new life possible through the resurrection of Your Son, Jesus, from the dead—new life not disfigured or weighed down by my guilt and shame. You have made a way for all who profess Jesus as Lord to rest in Your presence with confidence, knowing that they are at complete peace with You—an awesome, Holy God.

Please captivate my heart with Your story of love and redemption. Jesus, help me see people the way You see them. Please forgive me when I am distracted by outward appearances. Help me look to the heart as You do. May my hands become beautifully calloused with the work of the gospel, willing to do whatever You ask, when You ask it. By Your Spirit, lead me in Your love, opening my eyes to anyone spiritually lifeless and without hope. May Your words of love flow from my tongue as naturally as breathing, all for Your glory. Amen.