

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 19/09/2021

Text(s): 1 Thessalonians 2:17 – 3:13

Sermon Title: The Greatest Encouragement

Preacher: Rev Jason Phua

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

1 Thessalonians 2:17–20 (NIV84)

17 But, brothers, when we were torn away from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you.

18 For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan stopped us.

19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 3:1–13 (NIV84)

1 So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens.

2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God’s fellow worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith,

3 so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. You know quite well that we were destined for them.

4 In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know.

5 For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter might have tempted you and our efforts might have been useless.

6 But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.

7 Therefore, brothers, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith.

8 For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you?

10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you.

12 May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.

13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. In 1 Thess 2:18, Paul said Satan hindered him from going to Thessalonica again and again. Think of a time you wanted to share the gospel with someone but was hindered from doing so again and again. How did they happen and how did you handle the hindrances?**
- 2. We understand that Satan is a fallen angel who chose to rebel against God. Why do you think it is possible for Christians to either underestimate or overestimate Satan?**
- 3. Satan may be a smart being but it is possible for Christians to outsmart him. What was the factor mentioned that is critically important for this to happen?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. In the sermon, the preacher asked this short but important question: "What encourages you?" Why is this an important question?**
- 2. How much does the maturity of others in the Gospel excite and you? Must you first be a mature Christian before you can be excited about the growing maturity of other believers? Must you solve your own problems first before you can celebrate someone's victory over his or her challenges?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for monthly guide)

- Pray for one another to be willing to humble ourselves to assess if we have arranged our life priorities the wrong way. Pray also for one another to be excited about each other's spiritual growth with a desire for Christ to be glorified through us.
- Pray for our church to be a people whose hearts long for the presence of God in our lives, our homes, and our church, and that we would hunger for the things of God and not for the things of this world.
- Pray for the MCS to continue to be strong and stable, able to meet needs in Singapore, and stand out as a true witness of Christ Jesus.