RIDGEWOOD CHURCH

Breaking Through the Lie of Christian Individualism
"Breakthrough"
1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

October 6, 2019

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

The Thessalonian church was located in a proud Roman city. It was being persecuted. It missed Paul. The theme of the letter is the second coming of Christ. They were concerned about, and didn't completely understand, that event. They were also vulnerable to persecution. But the area of concern that likely prompted this passage is that some Christians were lazy. They weren't working and they were living off of wealthier members. Paul knew that each of them needed to carry their own weight. He knew that they needed each other.

Key Scripture:

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. [15] See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

Additional Scripture:

Proverbs 27:6 – Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy (NASB).

Proverbs 12:1 – Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

Hebrews 10:24-25 – And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, [25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. **How often do you attend church each month? Do you consider church attendance as optional? What is your motivation for attending when you do go to church?**

2. **Do you think other believers need you? Do you think more about their need or your need? What are some gifts that you have to offer other believers?**

3. **Have you tried to live the Christian life without the help of others? What happened? Can you think of three believers that need you right now? Reach out!**

NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC

Breaking Through the Perception of Powerless Prayer *(Matthew 6:6-8)*