



Sermon Notes

Topic: Choose Jesus –
Freedom from Self

Preacher: Ps Paul Curtis

Bible Passage: 1 Thess 5: 14-28

Date: 27th April 2025

Outline

- Church at Thessalonica was suffering persecution (2 Thess 1:3-4)

How do we respond when we are treated unfairly?

- Paul encourages a counter culture to worldly thinking

Do not repay evil with evil, rather repay evil with good (v15)

- This is a huge challenge; naturally we want revenge, to retaliate in some way

But God has a better way – we have been set free to respond in love

- It all seems too hard, in fact impossible, our hurt is so deep.

Yet Paul says, God is faithful, He will do it (v23-24)

- Paul wants this message to go out to all people

Are we all willing to start this journey of faith? (v27)



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Small Group Questions/Discussions

From a worldly perspective, how do we respond to someone who treats us badly? What does this look like for us in reality? Do we just ignore people and keep our distance, or do we just keep our hurt hidden in our own hearts?

What is the danger of holding onto bitterness? How can this result in us being the “victim twice” Does revenge at any level, really bring any peace to our hurt?

What does it look like to repay evil with good? Why would this be a better way? Why would we be relying completely on God to do this in us?

Sometimes, we don't even have to approach anyone, our journey is with God. How can simply praying for those who have hurt us and want good for them be so healing for us?

Forgiveness is complicated. God does not suggest an easy forgive and forget, sweep it under the carpet. It is a long process when the hurt is significant. Discuss what needs to take place for there to be genuine forgiveness. How does the example of Jesus help us?

In Romans, Paul says as far as it has to do with you, be at peace with one another. What does this mean for us in working through relational issues and why is it so important?