

Sweet Sentiments

Description

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1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

I've heard many preachers say the best way to really dig deep into what a verse of scripture means is to look at it in context. Scripture isn't a flower to only be enjoyed through a single stem experience. To understand the gardener's vision, one needs to enjoy the surrounding blooms along with the single flower.

1 Thessalonians 1 is one of those feel good, often-quoted verses. It's a sweet sentiment for a handwritten note or a wall hanging, but to the writer of Thessalonians it was so much more than that. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know how much they were appreciated and to deeply encourage them. Reading the entire chapter, their value as kingdom-minded people is constantly praised. They filled Paul with immense joy, and it was important to him for them to know.

The next time an often-quoted gem of God's Word crosses your path, consider digging deeper. Let the Holy Spirit help you see the context in which that treasure rests. After all, God's Word is living and active. There's always something new to be discovered.

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Date Created

2021/05/31