

Advancing the Gospel (1 Thessalonians)—VIDEO 2

Advancing the Gospel with *VISION*

Mike Treneer

NOTES:

Pre-Video Preparation: See reflection questions 1 and 2. Please read and respond in writing.



- **Vision: Seeing the Potential of the Seed**
 - How many seeds in an apple?
 - How many apples in a seed?
 - It depends on what happens to the seed!
- **Long-Term Vision for Our Fruit**
 - Paul had a long-term concern for their well being and a long-term vision for their lives
 - **Vision of their potential for generation—1 Thessalonians 2:17-19** *...our intense longing ... made every effort to see you... [you are] our hope, our joy, our crown....*
 - **Vision for them to be established in faith—1 Thessalonians 3:10** *Night and day we pray earnestly... and supply what is lacking in your faith.*
 - **Vision to stand firm—1 Thessalonians 3:8** *For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord.*
 - **Vision to overflow to others—1 Thessalonians 3:12** *May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else....*
 - **Vision for maturity and fruitfulness—**If those he discipled did not continue through to maturity and fruitfulness, Paul felt his ministry was in vain
 - **Vision for our fruit—1 Thessalonians 3:5** *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.*



- **Paul's Visionary Focus**

- Paul's ministry was focused on bringing others to:
 - Their full maturity and potential in Christ
 - The overflow of their lives to others
 - Spiritual generations
- **Philippians 2:14-16**—*shining like stars in a crooked and depraved generation*
- **Judges 2:8-10**—We are always only one generation away from extinction if we don't pass the baton to the next generation

- **Expressions of Paul's Vision**

- **Personal involvement and care**
 - **1 Thessalonians 2:7, 11-12**—*We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children... you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children*
 - **Ephesians 1:10**—Each person is unique, special; the dignity & value of every person
- **Strengthening and encouraging**
 - **1 Thessalonians 3:2**—*We sent... to strengthen and encourage you in your faith.*
 - Life is more difficult than we expect; laborers need encouragement all their lives
- **Inquiring about their faith**
 - **1 Thessalonians 3:5**—*...I sent to find out about your faith.*
 - **Proverbs 27:23**—*Be sure you know the condition of your flocks.*
- **Developing fellow workers**
 - **1 Thessalonians 3:1**—*...Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the Gospel of Christ...*
 - Multiply our efforts by developing fellow workers

Our Navigator Calling: To advance the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost



Video 1: Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Read through the entire book of 1 Thessalonians in one sitting again before watching the next video presentation by Mike Treneer. What fresh insight or question do you encounter?
2. Read through the book of Colossians. What do you observe that sheds light on our study of 1 Thessalonians?
3. How important is a long-term vision to our work of disciple making? Would you share your long-term vision for the work God has given you?
4. What factors could have led to the generation after Joshua choosing not to follow the Lord? How can we better ensure that generations will continue after we are gone?
5. How do you practice the strengthening and encouraging of those you serve? Do you have someone(s) who strengthens and encourages you? If so, how are you impacted?

