

October 12/13, 2024

"Uncertainty"

Pastor Aaron Buer



## **SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.**

### **2024 Challenge: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament**

**October:** Read Daniel, Hosea, Joel and Amos to see how people, situations and events point to Jesus

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#### **Day 1** [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#) | Communion

**In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.** 1 Corinthians 11:25-26

Communion, or "The Lord's Supper," is a tangible sign of Jesus's finished work. The bread and cup represent Jesus's broken body and shed blood for the forgiveness of sins. The bread and cup symbolize what Jesus did for his people *and* affirm faith in what he has accomplished. In partaking of communion, believers "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." Communion affirms who Jesus is, what he did for us and what he will do when he returns.

Communion is an opportunity to obey Jesus by remembering his death together. We join thousands of years of Christians in this simple step of obedience. We tend to be forgetful people. Have you ever forgotten where you placed your car keys or phone (maybe even while talking on the phone)? Forgetfulness can get the best of us. Regular participation in communion reminds us of all we have because of Jesus and his finished work. These are truths that are worth remembering and celebrating. Communion also provides the opportunity to recommit to following Jesus with our whole hearts.

**TODAY:** We had the opportunity to celebrate communion and remember the finished work of Jesus last weekend. As you remember all that Jesus has done for you, recommit to following him with your whole heart. Join the Ada Bible worship team in singing "The Finished Work of Christ." If you haven't placed your faith in Jesus yet, we would love to talk with you. Email us at [btw@adabible.org](mailto:btw@adabible.org).

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Daniel 11-12](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Focus on the promise of resurrection ([Daniel 12:2](#)). Reflect on how Jesus fulfills this promise ([John 5:28-29](#)).

#### **Day 2** [1 Thessalonians 3:2-4](#) | Pressure

**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.** 1 Thessalonians 3:4

Paul shares the gospel in Thessalonica, and many people believe. Paul may not have been in town long before riots ran him off. Yet, in that short time, Paul emphasizes that these believers will be persecuted. They will experience intense pressure for following Jesus—mistreatment, harassment or even physical attack because of their faith. Paul experienced such mistreatment. He warns them so they can be prepared and stand firm with unshakable faith when that pressure comes.

We will also face pressure for following Jesus. The world doesn't hold the same values as Jesus. He promises his followers, "In this world you will have trouble" (John 16:33). There is your word of encouragement for the day!

Thankfully, Jesus promised more: "But take heart! I have overcome the world." As followers of Jesus, we are to believe and expect to face difficulty, sometimes simply for believing in Jesus. But even when this is the case, we can take courage, knowing that we have a victorious Savior who will see us through to the end. An unshakable faith expects pressure for following Jesus but stands firm, knowing he is with us and will help us in whatever we face.

**TODAY:** Do you expect hardship? Or do you expect a relatively comfortable, easy life as a follower of Jesus? Consider how you respond (either internally or externally) when hard times come. Spend time today journaling about your heart's posture toward hardship and difficulty. Ask God for the grace and strength to faithfully endure hard times when they come.

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Hosea 1-2](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Note God's faithful love despite unfaithfulness. Consider how Jesus demonstrated God's love for us while we were still sinners ([Romans 5:8](#)).

## Day 3 [1 Thessalonians 3:5](#) | Temptation

**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 had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.** 1 Thessalonians 3:5

Paul knows the Thessalonians will face intense pressure for their faith as they live counter to their culture. He also knows that they are most susceptible to temptation in those moments of pressure. There is an enemy who actively works against their faith to draw them away from their trust in Jesus. Paul fears they may have abandoned their faith.

The tempter still works against us today. We are prone to give in to temptation when we face pressure for our faith. Like a fisherman luring a trophy fish with bait, our enemy uses any means necessary to complete his deceptive mission. We may be tempted to think God doesn't love us when we face hardship. Or maybe we're tempted to believe the Bible is outdated, not true for today or irrelevant to our struggles. An unshakable faith recognizes we have an enemy and pauses to consider whether our thoughts are from God and his Word or the enemy's lies.

**TODAY:** One way to fight against the enemy's tactics is with the Word of God ([Ephesians 6:17](#)). Commit to memorizing core biblical truths to counter the enemy's lies. If you would like to grow in how to study and engage the Bible, consider signing up for Ada Bible Academy's fall course "Understanding and Reading the Bible." Learn more and register [HERE](#).

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Hosea 3-4](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Look for the call to seek and return to God. Consider how Jesus calls us to repentance and restoration ([Mark 1:15](#)).

## Day 4 [1 Thessalonians 3:6-9](#) | Encouragement

**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?** 1 Thessalonians 3:9

Paul shares the gospel in Thessalonica but is soon run out of town. He had a short time to help the new believers grow in their faith in Jesus. After Paul leaves, he is concerned about how the new believers will fare. He knows they face intense pressure and temptation and wonders if they will stand firm in their faith. Paul sends Timothy to encourage them and assess their spiritual health. Upon Timothy's return, Paul learns the believers in Thessalonica are thriving, even in the face of great hardships and persecution. Their unshakable faith encourages and strengthens Paul's faith.

Our faith can play a vital role in strengthening the faith of others. These new believers in Thessalonica played a key role in encouraging Paul, a true giant of the faith. Our faithfulness can further inspire the faithfulness of others. Your purity, sobriety, endurance or courage in the face of temptation or trial can inspire similar acts of faith in the lives of those near you. The church's example in Thessalonica should remind us that our walk of faith is not just about us but about further assisting and encouraging the people of God all around us.

**TODAY:** One of the best ways we can be of spiritual encouragement to others is through a small group. If you're in a small group, discuss how you have encouraged each other's faith through hard times. If you're not in a group, there is still time to join one. Men's, women's and couples' groups are still forming. Learn more and sign up [HERE](#).

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Hosea 5-6](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Pay attention to God's desire for mercy over sacrifice. Consider how Jesus embodies this principle ([Matthew 9:12-13](#)).

## Day 5 [1Thessalonians 3:11-13](#) | Hope

**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.** 1 Thessalonians 3:13

Paul repeatedly returns the Thessalonians to one key idea: Jesus is coming back someday soon. This truth is to be a wellspring of hope for God's people. Paul charges the church to encourage each other with this truth: "After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words" ([1 Thessalonians 4:17-18](#)). Unshakable faith knows Jesus will one day return, and we will be with him.

We can also be sustained and encouraged by the truth of Jesus's return. Imagine being more consumed with the truth of Jesus's triumphant return than by the temporary and fleeting trials (though real) that meet us daily. This is God's vision for his people. He wants the unshakable truth of Jesus's return to empower us with unshakable faith no matter what we face. This is the hope that defines us.

**TODAY:** Consider how you can encourage someone with the hope of Jesus's return. It could be through a text, conversation or written note. Think about who is enduring pressure or deep hardship. This could sound like, "I know you are going through a lot. I am praying for you and asking God to help you live in the hope that Jesus will return one day and wipe away every tear. Someday he will restore all things, and there will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain ([Revelation 21:4](#))."

**JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** Read [Hosea 7-8](#). Highlight anything that points to Jesus. Focus on Israel's rebellion. Reflect on how Jesus offers redemption to rebellious people ([Luke 15:1-2](#), [Luke 15:7](#)).