**OCF Small Groups:** *passionately pursuing God, healthy relationships with each other, and people who don’t know Jesus, as part of a Gospel Community.*

**FOUNDATIONS OF A HEALTHY CHURCH**

**2 Thessalonians 1:1-12**

(Sunday, February 23)

1. What are some acts of God’s grace in your life or in your community that you are grateful for?
2. Which of the qualities in verse 3 do you most wish to see developed in your life now? How can your small group help?
3. What does it mean to “boast” (v. 4)? What is the difference between this kind of boasting and sinful boasting?
4. The Thessalonians demonstrated that their salvation was genuine because they, like Christ, were willing to suffer on account of God and His kingdom. Have you ever suffered because of your allegiance to Christ? If so, how were you able to stand strong?
5. Should a Christian be concerned if he or she has never been the recipient of persecution? Why or why not?
6. How does the biblical assurance of God’s ultimate justice help make sense of persecution?
7. For all of us there is a desire to see justice done—a deep sense that the world needs to be brought back into balance, not just hurting someone because that person hurt you. Think about your own life, your community or the world. How do you currently most desire to see God’s justice done?
8. Paul described the future for unbelievers in vivid and dramatic terms (tribulation, vengeance, flaming fire, punishment). How might the young church have responded to hearing this? Is fear a reasonable motivator to turn people toward faith? Explain.
9. How are you affected by the prospect of Christ’s coming in judgment?

What would help—or does help you—to feel ready?

1. In verses 10 and 12, Paul speaks of God being “glorified” by His people. How? What does this mean?

**SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION**

Meditate on 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

**11**To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, **12**so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**PRAYER EXERCISE**

Spend a few moments praying through verse 11 and 12 for yourself and for your group. Pray, “God, make me/us worthy of your calling and fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by your power, so that that name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in me/us, and me/us in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”