

Is It Worth It?

- How of often do you find yourself asking that question?
- In all sorts of different scenarios!
 - was coming out to church this morning or evening worth it? (hmmm!)
 - is it worth being involved in the things we do in or for church outside of Sundays: GB, International Cafe, housegroups, Prayer Meeting... is the hassle and effort worth benefit?
 - is it worth putting in effort to speak to people - those you don't know a few seats pews away, those you do know but don't get on with well, those who it is an effort to speak to?
 - is it worth being good? Telling the truth, working hard, putting yourself out for others?
- **Is life - and the Christian life in particular - worth it?**
- Perhaps you don't often stop and wonder, but take a moment to stop and think and quite often that question will arise:
 - think about church decline over the past 40 years
 - think about the decline in societies standards in so many areas over the same period
- It is easy to paint a gloomy picture!
- **Is it worth it?**
- That is essentially the question Thessalonians were asking:
 - is it worth living as a Christian?
 - confusion over return of Christ - thought Jesus' return was meant to be with power and splendour, but if he had come, then nothing much had changed, evil was still rampant... **why not just join in??**

Christ's Power is Greater

- **Paul's answer is simple:**
 - despite appearances, Christ's power is greater....
 -and that makes living for him worthwhile!
- For the victory will be his, in the end.
- **Story: boy kidnapped and returned**
- Evil - boy kidnapped.
 - God triumphs - **is it too hard for the Creator of the Universe to bring one small boy back to his home? NO!**
- The power of Christ may not have been evident for most of the duration of that story, but that did not make it any the less potent
 - just because you can't see it, doesn't make it unreal
- World is a mess - Christ's power is not evident.
- **BUT**
- See what happens the instant the Lord Jesus comes?
 - the evil one, source of all the destruction and hatred the world has ever known, is swept away by his breath!
 - puff - and he's gone!
- The difference in power is so great its almost incomprehensible!
 - **(All Black vs just about anyone at the moment!!)**

Result:

- **Stand firm** - don't be shaken from what you know to be right **(because it is in the Scriptures)**, and diverted off elsewhere
 - **know that it is worth it!**
 - for God will take us home!
- **His power in Christ is far more than able to do so!**