**“Moving with confidence”**

**Colossians**

**Titus**

**Timothy**

**Thessalonians**

**Philippians**

**Ephesians**

**Galatians**

**Corinthians**

**Romans**

**Philemon**

**Hebrews**

**James**

**Jude**

**John**

**Peter**

**Read 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5**

1. In verse 13 Paul says that God chose the Thessalonians “from the beginning”. What does that mean? What emotions might that have sparked in the Thessalonians as they read this?

1. God goes on in the rest of verse 13 & 14 to explain how the Thessalonians were chosen. Explain how they (and us) were chosen. For what reasons is this important to understand?

1. Paul tells the Thessalonians to “stand firm” as they went through life. From our previous study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians list some things that may have made the Thessalonians unsure about their future. For what reasons could the Thessalonians move forward with confidence?

1. In chapter 3 Paul asked for their prayers as he continued to spread the gospel to other parts of the world. What are some fears that Paul might have had? For what reasons could Paul move forward with confidence?

**Apply It**

1. How will knowing that God chose you “from the beginning” affect…

* Your spiritual life?

* Your home life?

* Your public life?

1. Howard is dying of cancer. He is afraid of dying because he’s not sure if he’s done enough good works to make up for all of the bad things he’s done. What thoughts from this lesson would you share with Howard?

1. Paul asked the Thessalonians to pray that he would be delivered from “evil men” as he spread the gospel despite the intense persecution that he faced. What are some fears that you might have if you were to go knocking on doors in New Orleans? What are some thoughts from this lesson that would calm those fears?

1. How will a model congregation move forward with confidence in each situation?

* Some members of a congregation would like to start a Hispanic mission. Others would like to start a preschool/daycare to reach younger families with children.

* Some members of a congregation would like to add more classroom space to their facility. Others would like to add more sanctuary space to their facility.

* A congregation is debating whether or not to hire an evangelism staff minister or a music and education staff minister.

1. Name 3 ways that Crown of Life could reach out to those in our area more effectively.