Alderwood Community Church October 27, 2019 Guest Speaker Dr. Jerry Root, Professor of Evangelism at Wheaton College

Perfect Love Casts Out Fear 1 John 3:1-3 and 1 John 4:18 (Pages 987-988, 1208-1209 or 1229 and 1231)

Join us again this evening at 6:00pm in the Manor as Jerry will be speaking on "How to Share Your Faith". "I pray that you will be active in sharing your faith so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ." **Philemon 6** (NIV1984)

Sermon Questions:

To begin your study, read **1 Thessalonians 2:1-12** at least two times thoughtfully and prayerfully. You may want to read it from two different versions.

1. Read **1 Thessalonians 2:1** in several Bible versions. Does Pastor Brad's message last week on your influence connect with Jerry Root's message this week on evangelism? Why or why not?

2. Read **Zechariah 4:6**. What application does this verse have to this week's message?

3. Read **1 Thessalonians 2:1-3**. Paul had been abused and treated outrageously in Philippi (**Acts 16**). If you had been Paul, how would you have felt going on to Thessalonica to preach the gospel? Have you ever been mistreated for the sake of the gospel?

4. In **v.2** Paul said he had boldness in sharing the gospel in Thessalonica. What do you see in **vv. 1-12** that gave him boldness? How does Paul's example help you overcome your fear?

5. Helping people know and grow in the Lord takes time and requires patience. You don't raise children overnight. You can't have a positive impact on people without spending quality time with them. Knowing this, how will this affect your fear of talking to non-Christians about Jesus?

6. One of the most important principles of effective evangelism is that you can't motivate or communicate to others what you don't possess. It is the principle of being an example. Without neglecting your responsibility to talk to people about Jesus, what are some examples of outward actions that you can take that will spread the word to others?

7. Jerry Root said there are many reasons Christians don't witness, but without a doubt fear is the underlying issue: fear of failure, ridicule, hostility, etc. Which of these prohibits you from sharing the gospel? Is there anything, realistically, that will help you overcome your fear so you will begin to spread the word? 8. What questions have you asked, or how have you opened up discussions, about Jesus?

- 9. Do you think the following questions would help you?
 - Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?
 - To you, who is Jesus?
 - Do you believe there is a heaven and a hell?
 - If you died right now, where would you go? If to heaven, how can you be sure of that?
 - If what you believe were not true, would you want to know it?

10. What practical steps will you take to grow in boldness with the gospel? How can your group help?