

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF **THESSALONIANS**

CHAPTER 1:5-10

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM 227 ~ APRIL 14, 1996

TITLE:

"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE" - PT. 2
THE BELIEVERS PLACE IN CHRIST

THEME:

1 Thessalonians 1:10

"We are to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

Last Week:

- vv. 1 - They were In God the Father & In the Lord Jesus Christ
- vv. 2 - Paul & the Others gave thanks to God for them
- vv. 3 - They bore the fruit of God's presence in their lives
- vv. 4 - Paul was confident & assured about their salvation

1.) The Church: Is An Elect People vv. 1-4

"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE" we really don't have to worry about "how a Church ought to be" if we are true followers of Jesus and His teaching

John 10:14

"I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and **I am known by My sheep.**

John 10:27

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, **and they follow Me.**

He Warns....

John 10:26

"But if you do not believe, it is because you are not of My sheep!

**It is Not Only Taught,
It is Repeated over and over again**

The Understanding of the Doctrine of Imminent Return
of Jesus Christ is to have a holy effect upon the church in **conduct**, in **ministry**, in **prayer**, in **practice**

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
1 John 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him (He's coming & am going with Him) purifies, (dedicates) himself, just as He is pure.

"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE"

2.) The Church: Is An Exemplary People vv. 5-7

a) They Received the Word vv. 5

Verse 5a

They Received the word through Paul

Every one of us has been influenced by someone else who has pointed us toward Jesus...

The planting of the church was in direct response to the preaching of the gospel

Verse 5b

1. ...With Words it was preached
2. ...With Power it was preached
3. ...With The Holy Spirit it was preached
4. ...With deep Conviction it was preached

In Word Only - a rebuttal to accusations against Paul & the Message

In Power - Paul and the teams confidence in the message they proclaimed

In the Holy Spirit - The Miracle of Converted souls, changed lives

In Much Assurance - they were who they were as they lived among them

(Are they the same people in and out of the pulpit?)

"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE"

b) They Followed their Spiritual Leaders vv. 6a

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Followers

GRK 3402 **mimetes (mim-ay-tace')**;

(a "mimic"); to imitate or to be an imitator of another. To be as another. to duplicate. not an outward action as much as it is an internal characteristic

this makes an assumption

that the minister is to be approachable and knowable

Philippians 4:9

The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do,

Paul would say:

- The Way I Prayed and as often as I prayed - this do
- The Way I Preached and as often as I preached - this do
- The Way I Studied and as often as I studied - this do
- The Way I Lived among you and as often as I lived among you - this do

JESUS HANDS THE BATON TO PAUL

Galatians 1:17

nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia... in the desert the Lord instructed Paul

Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. (Soul winning & watching)

Hebrews 13:7

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

The Result of Godly & Faithful Ministry - *The Church Caught it*

Seeing a Sermon

An Old Scottish Preacher was critiqued by a member of his church for having a boring delivery to his messages... His response was, "Well, It's Better Caught than Taught"

Sometimes Our Lives are Speaking so loud,
that nobody can hear what we are saying

The "Us" Part of the Equation - Is "Us" Being The Example
The "Lord's" Part of the Equation - Is By "Teaching and the Empowering"

"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE"

c) They Suffered for Jesus' Sake

vv. 6b

"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE" IS UNDER SPIRITUAL ATTACK - AMEN!

Matthew 5:11

"**Blessed** are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. :12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Acts 14:22

"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

Why does the world Attack us?

Matthew 5:13

"You are the salt of the earth; (that means we preserve with is healthy or we heal what is infected - the world is infected today...

Why does God allow it?

2 Corinthians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in **all our tribulation**, that we may be able to comfort those who are in **any trouble**, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Colossians 4:6

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

What It Cost a Thessalonian Christian to Follow Jesus Christ;

#1	Their Families	Rejection & Ridicule (no family support)
#2	Their Position in Life	Their Occupation (no welfare)
#3	Their Reputations	Their Loose of Respect (no audience)
#4	Their Future Hope	Their Identity among the community (no hope)

Matthew 10:35

"For I have come to `set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'
:36 **a man's enemies will be the members of his own household & family.'**

Matthew 12:50

"For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."

"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE"

d) They Encouraged Other Churches vv. 7

Have you noticed that Fellow Christians

are either a source of Encouragement or discouragement

we will either be promoting the walk of others around us or..... pulling them down

Christians are the church

- if the Christians are carnal & worldly - the church will be carnal & worldly
- if the Christians are holy & godly - the church will be holy & godly
- if the Christians are lukewarm or dead - the church will be lukewarm or dead

(The Pastor has alot to do with an attitude and activity of that local church)

- A Powerful Message (from God) vv. 5
- From a Powerful Witness (from Leaders) vv. 6
- Builds a Powerful Church (from All of Us) vv. 7-8

"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE"

3.) The Church: Is An Enthusiastic People vv. 8

a) Enthusiasm Results In Evangelism vv. 8a

"For from you the word of the Lord has **sounded forth**, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place."

* **Sounded** GRK 1837 **execheomai**
to blow like a trumpet. To announce! to "echo" or to repeat the call

they weren't tooting their own horn, they were proclaiming the Gospel

2 Timothy 4:5
But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist,
fulfill your ministry.

Personalities do not change
when a person is converted to Christ

But their passion does
their conversation - their attitude - their conduct - purpose - their focus

One of the Marks of the Holy Spirit in a Person's Life is "Enthusiasm" - expressed in different ways yes! - But Enthusiasm none the less

"Enthusiasm" (the heritage dictionary)

1. Great excitement for or interest in a subject or cause.
2. A source or cause of great interest.
3. Ecstasy arising from a supposed possession by a god. b. Religious fanatic

WHY NOT A SPORT ENTHUSIAST? - WHY NOT A HEALTH ENTHUSIAST ?

Because, unbeknown to the heritage dictionary people is the
meaning of "Enthusiastic"

The 1933 Oxford Dictionary;

"ENTHUSIAST"

A person who is possessed by God

"ENTHUSIASTIC"

*The activity or action displayed by a person
who is possessed by God*

"ENTHUSIASM"

the act of being possessed by God

En - internal, Theos - God, Aastic - Reaction

TAKE NOTE:

**THE SINGLE-MOST DANGEROUS SUPPRESSANT TO EVANGELISM
IS - UNCONFESED SIN**

Psalm 51:10

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and **renew** a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. **Restore** to me the joy of Your salvation, and **uphold me** by Your generous Spirit. Then (only then - effectiveness) I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.

* **Gone Out** GRK 1831 **exerchomai**
to issue forth like a river. To depart out of. To spread abroad.

Matthew 9:26
And the report of what Jesus had done **went out** into all that land.
(issuing forth like a river)

The Church @ Thessalonica was “Dynamic” it **received** the word and it **transmitted** out the word

A Stagnant Pool will eventually lead to Death
(the Stranded Trout in the Sierra's)

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| 1. Our Gospel came to you | vv. 5 |
| 2. you welcomed the message | vv. 6 |
| 3. The message went out from you | vv. 8 |

Eventually, If you continue to hear messages and read without yielding yourself to being used in service - you will become deaf & dumb spiritually!

As Christians - we cannot grow unless there is an outflow from us as individuals

James 1:22
But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

At The End of Each of the Four Gospels
and at the Beginning of the Book of Acts... There is the call to world evangelism

**The Church, not the pastoral staff,
is the evangelistic ministry**

b) **Enthusiasm Energizes the Messenger** vv. 8b

“Your faith toward God has **gone out**, so that we do not need to say anything.

Everywhere we go we hear about you guys
they had been saved several months

John 1:43
Philip - Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and

And The Demoniac from Decapolis

"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE"

4.) The Church: Is An Expectant People vv. 9-10

a) They Had Opened their Hearts Fully vv. 9a

the Good News is

Jesus Has Come - You must (you get to) Now leave the Path you're on, and you can now turn
towards the Lord

The Most Accurate Description of Repentance - They Turned!

* Turn GRK 1994 epistrepho (ep-ee-stref'-o
to convert to, to become something else

Their Converting Resulted in Three Key Actions

#1 They turned Away from the idols of the past

#2 They now had An Active service toward God

#3 And they were Eagerly expecting of the Lords return

"The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and
shadow of death light has dawned."

An Idol is a (God -Substitute)

that's Your Idol & Our culture has Perfected Them

a Statue, an Icon, an Image ##### THE HEARTS AFFECTION

What Incense is burning on the altar of the heart

b) They were awaiting the Lords Return vv. 10a

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Wait GRK 362 anemeno (an-am-en'-o)
to wait with excitement & expectancy to be looking out for, to search for ones arrival

“KEEP YOUR HEAD UP”

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

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Looking GRK 4327 prosdechomai (pros-dekh'-om-ahee);
to be waiting (with strong confidence & patience)

Warren Wiersbe;

“A Local Church that truly believes that Jesus Christ could return at any moment will be a vibrant and victorious gathering of people - an exciting church to be a part of”

b) They were Assured about the Outcome. 10b

Some say... “that means from “Hell” - Well no kidding from Hell. What’s the sense in being saved if we’re going to Hell

we are saved from hell - that’s the obvious
we are going to be saved from the tribulation period

In This Epistle, there are 5 chapters.

At the close of each Chapter - there’s a reference to the Return of the Jesus Christ

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Delivers GRK 4506 rhoumai (hroo'-om-ahee)
to rescue from harm:

*
Wrath GRK 3709 orge (or-gay')
justifiable punishment, anger, indignation, vengeance, judgment

Luke 21:36

Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able **to escape** all that is coming upon the earth, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

It is by the Gospel that the Church exists
and it is by the Church that the Gospel is Spread

Every Believer is to be a representation of a local church.
... *The local church is to be a representation of the universal church...*

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| • ELECT - | BORN AGAIN |
| • EXEMPLARY - | IMITATING GODLY PEOPLE |
| • ENTHUSIASTIC - | SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS |
| • EXPECTANT - | LOOKING DAILY FOR JESUS' RETURN! |

Are You an Enthusiastic Christian ?
Do You Attend an Enthusiastic Church ?

If you need to become Enthusiastic with God and for God
"All you need to do is plug in to His Power"

Luke 11:10

"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
"If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"