

January 3, 2016

“Thessalonica – A Model of Excellence: Faith, Hope, and Love”

1 Thessalonians Chapters 1 & 2

A. The church at Thessalonica was known for...

“We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 1:3

1. Their faith. Their faith produced work evidencing their belief.
2. Their love. Their love produced deeds evidencing their heart.
3. Their hope. Their hope produced endurance that kept them going.

B. Paul’s life model was reproduced...

“You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord...”

1 Thessalonians 1:5b-6a

1. Paul’s suffering never hindered his joy in serving.
2. Paul’s concern for them was shown by his lifestyle.
3. Paul was unwilling to be a burden to those he served.
4. Paul was willing to treat them...
Like a child – gentle
Like a mother- caring
Like a father – encouraging and urging.
5. Paul was determined to please God and serve people, not serve God and please people.

C. An exemplary life of servicing does not guarantee...

“For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God’s churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus...”

1 Thessalonians 2:14

1. That you may not face criticism from others.
2. That you may not face opposition or obstacles from the enemy.
3. That you may not face persecution.

D. How will you be remembered when and if your reputation is put into writing?

“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.” **1 Thessalonians 1:2**

1. What are people saying about you? How are you being described to others?
2. Who are you mentoring and who will carry on your message and life choices?
3. How are you dealing with the struggles you are facing in this life?
4. What brings you great joy that is eternal?

E. Paul’s counsel to us...

“Indeed you are our glory and joy.” **1 Thessalonians 2:20**

1. Make life choices that reflect your faith. Your lifestyle does matter!
2. Search for ways to serve rather than to be served!
3. Invest in the life of someone else!
4. Face trials with joy...it is temporary!
5. Don’t try to please people, please God!
6. Find something that brings eternal joy!
7. Remember, God loves you and He chose you!