

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scripture(s) for Today: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 – What the Christian experience should look like

Today's Message:

"A Model Church"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we introduced the book of 1 Thessalonians and saw the church's fascinating history in Acts 17 as founded by the Holy Ghost and His missionary team! Today, we begin the 1st chapter of the book whose theme is preparing for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. So, why is this book recommended reading for every **NEW** believer? We will soon find out! Paul will describe what exactly happened when the Gospel of Jesus Christ came to Thessalonica. Those who received Jesus Christ as Lord and personal Saviour became ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia – and **ALL** Christians! If that is the case, what did their faith and Christian **EXPERIENCE** look like? Pay close attention...

LEARNING TOGETHER

A. The Text 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

#1. The Introduction – a letter from God our Father and the LORD Jesus Christ!

- **1st of Paul's church epistles; proof the church was in God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- ✓ **COMPARING SCRIPTURES**
 - The Bible says... the author of the Bible is the **HOLY GHOST**. **2Pet 1:21**
 - The Bible says... the Holy Ghost **SENT** out Paul from/to *Antioch*. **Acts 13:1-18:22**
 - Paul chose **Silas** (no Barnabas), and **Timothy** was added soon. **Acts 15:40; 16:1**
 - The Bible says... the church began on the **CROSS**. **Eph 2:16; 3:1-7** (1 of 7 NT Mysteries)
 - The phrase "**Lord Jesus Christ**" is found **83** times in the KJV – 20 in 1 & 2 Thess.

NOTE It is evident that the Holy Ghost wanted the believers here to have written words. There is no doubt this church is in Christ; the *Lord Jesus Christ* is a Trinity-like name. Lord is OT name God the Father; Jesus is Son; Christ is anointed One by Holy Spirit.

#2. The Memories – the Thessalonians were a BLESSING to Paul and the team.

- **Paul highlights attributes of the believers that caused them to give thanks to God.**
- ✓ **COMPARING SCRIPTURES**

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Making disciples and caring for souls!

- *WORK OF FAITH* – **Jn 6:27-29; Rom 10:17; 1Ths 2:13-14; 1Cor 15:3-4; 58**
- *LABOUR OF LOVE* – **Gen 29:20; Jn 14:15; 15:10; 1Cor 13:4-8; Heb 6:10; Rev 2:2,4**
- *PATIENCE OF HOPE* in our Lord Jesus Christ – **1Ths 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:16-17; 5:23**
- *IN THE SIGHT OF GOD* – **13x** in KJV; **2Cor 2:17; 4:2; 7:12; 1Tim 2:3; 6:13; 1Pet 3:4**
- *KNOWING, BRETHREN BELOVED... ELECTION OF GOD* – **1Pet 1:2; Rom 9:10-11**

NOTE Their work of faith was to believe on Christ! That faith wrought in them a passion to labour for their Lord with a right motive! Beware, there is a labour without love.

#3. *The Model* – the Thessalonians were **ENSAMPLES** for all believers to follow.

➤ *Those Thessalonians that believed had genuine salvation: their lives (fruit) proved it!*

✓ **THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE**

- 1) **SALVATION** and **ASSURANCE** – **1Cor 1:17-2:16; 2Cor 3:6; 2Tim 2:9; 1Jo 5:13**
 ✓ They heard and believed! You must be saved and know that you are saved!
- 2) Became **FOLLOWERS** of us and the Lord – **1Cor 4:16; 11:1; Eph 5:1; 1Pet 3:13**
 ✓ They were faithful followers! You must be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ!
- 3) **ENSAMPLES** of true believers – **1Cor 10:11; Php 3:17; 2Ths 3:9; 1Pet 5:3**
 ✓ They had just gotten saved! You must be an example for saints and sinners!
- 4) **WITNESS** of the Gospel and word of God – **Isa 52:7; Rom 10:14-18; 1Cor 14:36**
 ✓ They immediately trumpeted the Gospel! You must be a faithful witness!
- 5) Personal **TESTIMONY** of repentance and service – **2Cor 3:2; 1John 5:20-21**
 ✓ Your testimony and the way you live matters! You must serve your Lord!
- 6) **WAITING** for Jesus Christ to come – **1Ths 5:9** (context 5:2, 4, 5, 6, 7!); **2Ths 3:5**
 ✓ They were expecting Him to come! You must wait for your Lord's coming!

NOTE What should you be doing as a Christian?? ALL OF THESE THINGS!! Amen. This 1st chapter of Paul's first church letter not only gave new believers in Thessalonica what they needed to know as ambassadors of Jesus Christ – but us also and all believers!

B. The Lessons (How can you apply this message to your life?)

1. *The Thessalonian believers were known for their faith and labour of **LOVE**.*

❖ **Question:** *Is your faith and service to Jesus Christ with right motives? Do you love Him?*

2. *The Thessalonian believers were examples of what true Christianity **LOOKS** like.*

❖ **Question:** *Which parts of the true Christian experience are you lacking? Faithfully doing?*

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