

# DISCIPLE'S QUEST

*If you continue in My word, then you are  
truly disciples of Mine.*

John 8:31

July 14, 2024

Grateful Praise for a Faithful Church

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

## Main Idea:

After Paul, Silas and Timothy were forced to leave Thessalonica the enemies of the gospel directed all their rage at the fledgling church. Its people however, remained strong in the Lord and earned a stellar reputation for their faithfulness (1 Thessalonians 1:6-10). But the persecution didn't subside, and the enemy intensified the attack by assailing the church with false teachers and even a counterfeit letter said to be from the missionaries and falsely stating that the Day of the Lord had come.

Because this dangerous turn of events created confusion in the minds of some of the believers, threatening to jeopardize their spiritual well-being and testimony, Paul wrote his second inspired epistle to the church to correct the confusion with the truth. Before doing so however, he praised the Thessalonian believers for their growth in the faith, in love and in perseverance in the face of such fierce opposition. From their fidelity in these areas, four hallmarks of an excellent church come to light.

## Outline:

4 hallmarks of an excellent church

- 1) An excellent church is composed of real and committed believers in Jesus
- 2) An excellent church is one in which the believing are continually growing in the faith
- 3) An excellent church is one in which the love of its people for one another continually grows
- 4) An excellent church is one in which perseverance and faithfulness are manifest even in difficult times

