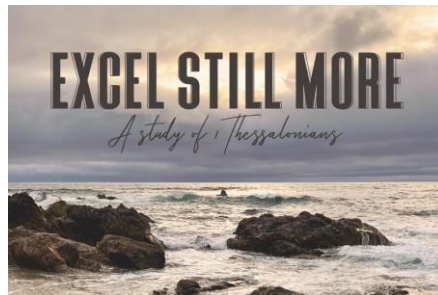


DISCIPLE'S QUEST

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

John 8:31



September 10, 2023

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Three Marks of a Thriving Church

Main Idea

The church at Thessalonica thrived in spite of the adversity of persecution that its people experienced. As Paul recalled the church's faithfulness, three characteristics came to light that explained its spiritual prosperity and powerful testimony.

Outline

Three Marks (Characteristics) of a Thriving Church

1. A thriving church is one in which the Lord is imitated
 - 3 basic instructions for the imitation of Christ
 - To imitate Christ we must pursue holiness
 - To imitate Christ we must love others sacrificially
 - To imitate Christ we must pursue holiness
2. A thriving church is one from which the gospel shines forth
3. A thriving church is one in which the return of Jesus is eagerly anticipated

Questions for further contemplation and application after the message:

- #1 Why is the imitation of Christ so important for believers?

- #2 Read 1 Peter 1:14-16. How can a Christian grow in practical holiness day by day?

- #3 Faithfully living out the life of faith our Lord has called us to often brings persecution from the unbelieving. Why?

- #4 In what ways did the Thessalonian believers become an example for other Christians and churches to follow?

- #5 How is the repentance of the Thessalonians described in C. 1 v. 9?

- #6 How/why does the certain promise of Christ's return empower believers to live faithfully here and now?