



TRUTHFUL. CHARITABLE. THANKFUL.

Christians have persevered for 2 centuries, during the reign of good and bad rulers, during times of growth and persecution of the church. Through it all, Christians have been known for being TRUTHFUL, CHARITABLE, & THANKFUL.

teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from NIV (New International Version).

Paul writes the Thessalonians, encouraging them to be ready for the day Jesus returns. Until then, followers of Jesus are to live **TRUTHFUL, CHARITABLE, & THANKFUL**.

1 Thessalonians 5:13-18 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Christians are to be TRUTHFUL.

v14a And we urge you, brothers and sisters, **warn those who are idle and disruptive,**

Followers of Jesus aren't supposed to allow brothers and sisters to be **idle** - to live in laziness or be **disruptive** among the body of Christ. In his 2nd letter to the same group of people, Paul writes

2 Thessalonians 3:10

For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: **"The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."**

Paul commands Titus with these words:

Titus 3:10

Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them.

Believers are to be known for living and speaking the truth.

Ephesians 4:25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and **speak truthfully** to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

🕒 Believers should **speak the truth in love** (Eph 4:15), but shouldn't sidestep the truth with fellow Christians nor with our culture. **The apostles of Jesus told people the TRUTH about Jesus.**

Acts 17:30b-31 ...He [God] **commands all people everywhere to repent**. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the Man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead."

Some people listened and responded to TRUTH claims about Jesus, while others thought it was foolishness. Telling others the TRUTH resulted in significant persecution including being beaten, imprisoned, and even being killed, yet believers continued to share.

TAKE YOUR OWN NOTES HERE

Christians are to be CHARITABLE.

1 Thes 5:14b-15 encourage the disheartened, **help** the weak, **be patient** with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but **always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.**

Charitable people treat others with kindness and patience, showing they have others' best interest in mind.

- What are you doing to encourage the **disheartened** or discouraged?
- What are you doing to **help** those **weak** and struggling?
- What are you doing to **do good** to those who treat you **wrong**?

Christians are to be THANKFUL.

1 Thes 5:16-18 Rejoice always, **pray** continually, **give thanks in all circumstances**; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Is that characteristic of YOU? Are you someone who is known for **THANKFULNESS** or **DISSATISFACTION**?

Are you thankful for....?

- **Thankful for God's provision in your life?**
- **Thankful for family & friends?**
- **Thankful your sin is fully forgiven?**

* Thankfulness is a LIFESTYLE for followers of Jesus - in the good times AND in the bad times.

Let's look at how this played out for the first followers of Jesus.

The first followers of Jesus were truthful, charitable & thankful.

Acts 3:12-20 When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Servant Jesus. You handed Him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the Author of life, but **God raised Him from the dead**. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the Name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. Now, fellow Israelites, **I know that you acted in ignorance** [CHARITABLE], as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. **Repent**, then, and **turn to God**, so **that your sins may be wiped out**, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

What was the result?

Acts 5:40-42 ...They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. The apostles left the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name**. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.

How could they respond that way!?!? They were reminded of what Jesus had done for them! So, they were **TRUTHFUL**, they were **CHARITABLE** towards others, and they were **THANKFUL** - even during tough times.

TAKE YOUR OWN NOTES HERE

FEET2FAITH

- ✓ **Be known for being TRUTHFUL.** Tell the truth wherever you are - home, school, work, church. And tell people the truth about Jesus and their need to turn from sin.
 - ⑦ **Is that how others view you?** - TRUTHFUL or someone whose words can't be trusted?
 - ✓ **Be known for being CHARITABLE,** encouraging those struggling, helping the weak; being patient with all; even loving those who don't love you back.
 - ⑦ **Is that how others view you?** - CHARITABLE or someone who is harsh, unkind, impatient, & prideful?
 - ✓ **Be known for being THANKFUL,** thankful for life, thankful for how God has provided for your needs; thankful for family & friends; and thankful for JESUS - and His incredible forgiveness!
 - ⑦ **Is that how others view you?** - THANKFUL or someone who is DISSATISFIED?
 - ➡ This Thanksgiving week, **purposely make time to tell others that you are thankful for how God has provided.** Take time to tell OTHERS how thankful you are for them! Make time to do this over your Thanksgiving meal.
 - ➡ **Help us distribute food on Tuesday 9am - 1pm @ AG CENTER.**
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TAKE YOUR OWN NOTES HERE

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Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives:** Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (973-0047), Jere & Darlene Burnette (673-1888), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), or Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717).