

Series: This Present Life & Our Future Hope

Campus: CW

Text: 1 Thess 2:13-16

Title: An Accepting Church

Date: 6/27/2021

Purpose: To inspire us to live as a church that is known for its acceptance of the word of God despite any suffering that may come as a result. May it be said of NGC that we accepted the Word of God and lived lives as imitators of the Church of God in Christ Jesus even through suffering...that they might be saved.

Context of Reality: We live in a day that is not lacking in it's cultural thought leaders. If we want to hear something new and interesting it takes us all but 5 seconds to google the latest and greatest pontificator on our chosen subject. The challenge today, however, is not just the plethora of options available to us, it's the pressure to accept these ideas as truth. Once the spirit of the age anoints someone as a thought leader then anyone or any group who holds a different viewpoint is seen as disruptive, intolerant, or even hostile to society. Pick your subject. The pressure to conform is greater than ever in our western history. What does that mean for the church? How does the church respond?

Christ Trajectory: The Word of God is at work in the believers. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has been proclaimed and is transforming lives as seen in the imitation of the true churches of God and through the church enduring suffering to ensure the gospel is still proclaimed...that they might be saved.

Main Idea: The legacy of a church stems not from its acceptance by the world but by its acceptance of the Word.

INTRODUCTION

READ TEXT/PRAY

Why is Paul so thankful for the Thessalonica church?

Acts 17:1-4 - READ

They Accepted the Word of God

MI: The legacy of a church stems not from its acceptance by the world but by its acceptance of the Word.

Acts 17:5-9 - the acceptance of the Word of God transforms lives

- **1 Thessalonians 1:5** - the gospel came not only in word but in power and in the Holy Spirit with full conviction!
- **1 Thess 1:9** - they turned from idols to serve the living and true God!

MI: The legacy of a church stems not from its acceptance by the world but by its acceptance of the Word.

They Became Imitators of the Churches of God - the acceptance of the Word shapes the way think about and do church

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They Suffered the Same Things - the acceptance of the Word of God enables us to suffer for the sake of the gospel.

...That They Might Be Saved - the acceptance of the Word of God empowers and fuels the gospel mission...that they might be saved

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