



Participating in a Dynamic Church
Standing Firm – Part 1
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

It's been suggested that discouragement is Satan's most effective weapon. There is much truth to that statement. It is very easy for Christian people to get discouraged today in light of all the seemingly bad news in the world. That's why we need to study this book of 1 Thessalonians, because it is a book of encouragement. This letter, penned by the apostle Paul, is a reminder that we can be upbeat regardless of our circumstances. Paul was greatly encouraged by this church in Thessalonica. Let's take a peek and see why and then seek to reproduce those qualities continually in our own church.

I. A place where the gospel is _____ with _____.

A. The gospel is _____ news and _____ news; and _____ news and _____ news.

B. An encouraging church is one where the gospel is preached as a _____ over and over again.

C. Some churches do not preach the good news of salvation.

1. Some legalistic churches preach a gospel of salvation by _____.

2. Other churches preach a gospel of _____.

D. Three qualifiers that make the difference between _____ the words and preaching with _____.

1. It is preached "with the _____." (v. 5)

2. It is preached "with deep _____." (v. 5)

3. It is based on _____. (v. 5)

II. A place where the gospel is _____ with _____.

A. How can you receive the message with joy and be an encouragement to other people?

1. Come to church with a spirit of _____.

2. _____ your Bible and _____ it to the passage being taught.

3. _____ attentively.

4. _____ to the message as it's being delivered.

5. Recognize the different _____ of a service.

6. _____ when the message is over.

III. A place where the gospel is _____ with _____.

A. When a church focuses on _____, that's discouraging.

B. The one factor that made the church in Thessalonica so evangelistic was that the gospel had _____ their lives.

C. The most effective evangelistic program is what John Stott calls "_____ evangelism."

D. For us to be an effective witness for Christ, we need to _____ like what we're _____ about.