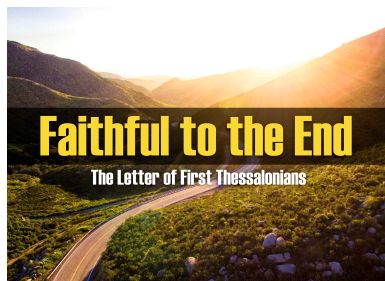


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

The Marks of a Faithful Church

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
February 7, 2021



What are the characteristics of a faithful disciple and a faithful church?

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (NLT) We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May God give you grace and peace. ² We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. ³ As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. ⁵ For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you. ⁶ So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord. ⁷ As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece—throughout both Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸ And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don't need to tell them about it, ⁹ for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. ¹⁰ And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.

- **Faithful work:** v. 3 "...we think of your faithful work..."

Hebrews 11:1 (NLT) "Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see." - the evidence or conviction of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1 (AMP) Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]."

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT) "And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."

1 Thessalonians 1:5 (MSG) "When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions."

To what degree do I have "steel" in my Biblical convictions?

Check out Right Now Media: Reasonable Faith Defenders by William Lane Craig & Real Truth - Real Quick by Todd Wagner, specifically "Can the Bible Be Trusted?"

- **Loving deeds:** v. 3 "...we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds..."

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10 (NLT) "But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other for God himself has taught you to love one another. ¹⁰ Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more."

1 Thessalonians 1:8 (NLT) "And now the word of the Lord is ringing out (or echoing) from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God."

Does my life echo the love of Jesus Christ?

- **Enduring hope:** v. 3 "we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT) "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love."

1 Thessalonians 1:9 (NLT) "[You] turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. ¹⁰ And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming."

What idols do I need to turn from to serve the living and true God?

Big Idea: Imitate Christ in faithful work, loving deeds, and enduring hope.

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service is from the New Living Translation (NLT), the Amplified Bible (AMP), and The Message (MSG).



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**The Marks of a Faithful Church
#1 of 7 - February 7, 2020**

- 1) What stood out to you in this message and what questions did it raise?
- 2) Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10. What stands out to you from this passage? In what ways were these believers faithful to God?
- 3) Read Hebrews 11:1 and 11:6. What do you learn about faith and its importance? How would you define "faith" in your own words?
- 4) Take time to prayerfully reflect on this question: To what degree do I have "steel" in my Biblical convictions? What next step would help me develop stronger faith?
- 5) In what way did this church embody the love of Christ? Where do you think we reflect God's love best within our church and Impact Community? In what ways is God calling us to love with greater intensity? How does the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus help us live this out?
- 6) How did this Thessalonian church display "enduring hope"? Why is a future orientation necessary for us to be effective as Christians living in our world?
- 7) Read and reflect on 1 Cor. 13:13 and I Thess. 1:9. What idols do you need to turn from to serve the living and true God? Why is it important that we look forward to the 2nd coming of Jesus? How does this give us hope?
- 8) In what ways is God calling you to imitate Christ in faithful work, loving deeds, and enduring hope as an individual, family and an Impact Community? What next step will you take today?
- 9) Take time as an IC to discuss and plan engagement around the "Helping the Homeless" Missional Focus for Feb. and March.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**The Marks of a Faithful Church
#1 of 7 - February 7, 2020**

- 1) What stood out to you in this message and what questions did it raise?
- 2) Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10. What stands out to you from this passage? In what ways were these believers faithful to God?
- 3) Read Hebrews 11:1 and 11:6. What do you learn about faith and its importance? How would you define "faith" in your own words?
- 4) Take time to prayerfully reflect on this question: To what degree do I have "steel" in my Biblical convictions? What next step would help me develop stronger faith?
- 5) In what way did this church embody the love of Christ? Where do you think we reflect God's love best within our church and Impact Community? In what ways is God calling us to love with greater intensity? How does the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus help us live this out?
- 6) How did this Thessalonian church display "enduring hope"? Why is a future orientation necessary for us to be effective as Christians living in our world?
- 7) Read and reflect on 1 Cor. 13:13 and I Thess. 1:9. What idols do you need to turn from to serve the living and true God? Why is it important that we look forward to the 2nd coming of Jesus? How does this give us hope?
- 8) In what ways is God calling you to imitate Christ in faithful work, loving deeds, and enduring hope as an individual, family and an Impact Community? What next step will you take today?
- 9) Take time as an IC to discuss and plan engagement around the "Helping the Homeless" Missional Focus for Feb. and March.