

Revival Christian Fellowship

The Church In the Last Days

"The Marks of a Model Church" - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

January 9, 2022

Main Point: The church in Thessalonica stands as a model for what the church should be today.

Introduction

- Charles Spurgeon is quoted as saying, "*The day we find the perfect church, it becomes imperfect the moment we join it.*" Explain why you agree or disagree with the statement.

Understanding

1. An Elect Church - Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4.

- a. The Apostle Paul frequently begins his epistles with the phrase "Grace to you and peace." Define the words grace and peace. Why does Paul always put grace before peace?
- b. What three things does Paul commend the Thessalonian church for?
- c. What does "work of faith" mean? How about "labor of love?" And "steadfastness of hope?"
- d. How did Paul treat brothers and sisters in Christ?
- e. What can we learn from Paul about doing ministry?

f. What do the verses below teach us about being chosen by God and His desire for salvation?

i. Ephesians 1:4-5

ii. 2 Peter 3:9

2. An Evangelistic Church - Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8.

a. Why is it important that the gospel come, not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit?

b. How did the Thessalonians first become imitators of, and then models for, the faith?

c. 1 Thessalonians 1:6 mentions that the Word of God was received with much affliction. Read Acts 17:1-10 about this affliction. Summarize what you find there.

d. The Thessalonians could see that what Paul, Silas, and Timothy were preaching was true because these men lived it. How does your life confirm or contradict what you say you believe?

e. Are letting God work and believers participating in gospel ministry at odds with one another? What are our responsibilities in ministry and what are God's?

f. What is the joy of the Holy Spirit that is mentioned in verse 6?

- g. How did the Thessalonians become an example to the world?
- h. The word of the Lord rang out from the believers at Thessalonica. What would you say “rings out” from us? From you, personally?
- i. How comfortable are you in sharing your faith in Christ with others? How does Romans 1:16 encourage us in the sharing of our faith?

3. An Expectant Church - Read 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10.

- a. What evidence do we see in 1 Thessalonians 1:9 that they had been saved?
- b. What were the Thessalonians expectant of?
- c. How does living in the expectancy of Christ’s return motivate you in your daily life, conversations with others, etc.

Application

- What evidence of work produced by faith and labor produced by love will others find if they examine your life?