



*“Oh, give me a home...with not a discouraging word...and the skies
are not cloudy all day.”*

Encourage...Challenge...Promote growth in the Spirit!

A Study in 1 Thessalonians

“All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” II Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” II Peter 1:20-21 NIV

“Surely the LORD God does nothing Unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7

Why are we here? What is the purpose of Christians today?

What words describe the Early Church?

Do those same descriptive terms apply to the Body of Christ today?

Paul gave us glorious principles to live by:

- ***He imitated Christ; therefore, he encouraged Christians to imitate him.***
- ***Ultimately, we rest in Christ as He conforms us into His image.***

“If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth, For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

Colossians 3:1-4

1 Thessalonians 1:1, “Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.

Paul sends this letter to the church in Thessalonica who is in God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church experienced the very presence of God through the joy of the Holy Spirit who imparted the reality of the Scriptures fulfilled by God’s only begotten Son’s miraculous birth, sinless life, (39 X 9 =351) stripes at the whipping post, sacrificial death, awesome resurrection, and glorious ascension.

Jesus the Messiah.

“In Him we live, and move, and have our being, In Him we live, and move, and have our being. Make a joyful noise, sing unto the Lord, tell Him of your love, dance before Him; Make a joyful noise, sing unto the Lord, tell Him of your love. Hallelujah!”

Consider Our Environment:

- *Fish were made to live in the water.*
- *Land animals were made for the fields, forests, and desert.*
- *Birds were made for the air.*

Christians were SAVED that we might choose daily to live IN CHRIST!

Jesus is in the Father who is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is in us, we are hidden in Jesus, who is in our Father.

William Barclay says, “Just as the air is in us, and we are in the air and cannot live without it, so the true Church is in God and God is in the true Church and there is no true life for the Church without God. Further, the God in whom the Church lives, is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; and therefore, the Church does not shiver in the icy fear of a God who is a tyrant but basks in the sunshine of a God who is love.”

NOTE: We are reminded in Leviticus 19:2 to “...be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.”

Matthew 5:48 “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

1 Peter 1:15-16 says, “But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’”

The letters Paul, Silas, and Timothy wrote to the Church in Thessalonica were intended to encourage and to gently rebuke. Led by God - filled with compassion, by His Holy Spirit, he chose his words carefully and began his letter by encouraging the recipients.

Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians’ Faith

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10, *“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.”*

Ouida has been in the hospital receiving excellent care. The machines are all equipped with numbers or graphs to relay vital information to the patient’s care givers: nurses, doctors, family, and friends. By looking at the information, one knows immediately how the patient is faring. If too high or too low, changes are made and appropriate steps are taken. The one thing guarded against is for a patient to have a flat line on the machine.

Have you ever known someone who was as steady as a flat line regardless of circumstances? *There is little excitement when something favorable happens; the same is exhibited when sadness or trials come; there is little emotion or sadness.*

Once we wanted to bless our daughter and son-in-law with a monetary gift. We asked him first if he would be offended if we gave them the gift. He said, “It’s okay if you do and it’s okay if you don’t. It matters not one way or the other.”

Since it was okay, we gave it. We have often remembered his comment and never asked again.

Some on the other hand show great emotional exuberance when a touchdown is made by their favorite team; and respond with disdain when the same team fumbles the ball.

That guy is alive and doesn't need a monitor to confirm it.

1 Thessalonians 1:3, “We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Paul noted 3 important traits of Christians here.

1. **Christians are inspired by faith to do good works due to their faith in God.**

Not that good works will get us to heaven, yet because of what Christ Jesus has done for us to save us from ourselves and the ways of the world, we rejoice in doing all that we can for others to bring glory to God.

Ephesians 2:10: “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2. **Christians’ labor is prompted by love.**

Barclay says, “Work done for love always has a glory.”

At home, when no one is watching, consider why you are doing what it is you are doing? Why are you doing it? Is there joy in your heart for what you are doing?

We received a precious card this week which we will treasure as a part of our legacy. Someone had to take time to purchase the card, write it, seal it, stamp it, and mail it. What joy it brought to our hearts! What glorious memories of a wonderful time shared together with a host of friends that prompted him to express thanks! The card tucked inside a folder to be pulled out 10-20 years from now and reread by family members will continue to bring glory to God.

3. **Christians’ endurance is inspired by hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

We as Christians **know the word of God will come to pass.**

Jesus will call us up to be with Him in heaven for 7 years; He will return with all of the saints to rule and reign on earth for a 1000 years; then we will be in heaven with Him for all eternity.

Paul reminds us that we are his fellow brothers and sisters who are loved by God.

Verse 4: *“For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you.”*

Paul knew without a doubt when he was knocked off his high horse on his way to Damascus to persecute the early Church that Jesus had singled him out – that he was chosen! He also knew these precious fellow believers were also loved by God, chosen by Him.

We are here today because the Holy Spirit drew us; because we have a family of brothers and sisters here at Harvest Assembly of God, and we are

Why? *Because of what the Word says, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10:*

This is not only for the Church at Thessalonica, but for us here at our local church and for the Body of Christ all around the world.

In verse 8, Paul says, “The Lord’s message rang out from you... because of your faith in God...”.

May we let it be known that we are about bringing glory and honor to God our Father through our faith in Jesus Christ.

Kanye West, who has been gloriously saved, has lit up Time Square with “Jesus is King”. He is speaking this weekend in Joel Osteen’s church in Houston.

May he remain true to the faith when times of persecution come.

May we pray that his faith would fail not when Satan comes to sift him as wheat, as Peter was warned about by Christ.

**Have
Faith
in
GOD**