

Understanding 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (p.1255)

Intro

I. The Church is a living and dynamic _____ of believers...

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

There is _____, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church that is _____ in different places among different people.

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets... (Eph. 2:20)

I will build my church... (Mt. 16:18)

the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

In the Bible, whenever someone unites with _____, he/she also unites with God's people, because the Church is _____ to God's plan to glorify His Son.

In a multitude of people is the glory of a king... (Prov. 14:28)

...in order that he [Christ] might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Rom. 8:29)

The Church consists of _____ of God's people--not simply the leadership—working together consistently in Biblical, _____, exemplary gospel work and _____.

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons... (Phil. 1:1)

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. v.2-7

II. In _____ with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through Whom we receive _____ and peace.

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[it is] only God who gives the growth. (1 Cor. 3:7)

...[hold] fast to the Head, from whom the whole body...grows with a growth that is from God. (Col. 2:19)

Our gospel work is the _____ of our faith, love, and hope in Jesus, which in turn is the fruit of the _____; the gospel and the Holy Spirit are the _____ behind our work.

We give thanks to God always for all of you...remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. v.2-5

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to _____ the Father and the Son; He applies the work of Christ to our hearts to enable us to _____ and to bear good fruit.

You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit...v.5,6

The Holy Spirit makes us more like Christ and enables us to _____ in the Lord and in the work of the Lord even when that work might be _____.

[Jesus] who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.... (Heb. 12:2)

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (1 Cor. 11:1)

the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. (Acts 17:5)

...so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and 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 delivers us from the wrath to come. (1 Thess. 1:7-10)

Questions to Consider:

What is your attitude toward the Church? Is your attitude toward the Church primarily one of _____?

just as you are doing, that you do so more and more....For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality...love one another...do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands...(4:1-3;9-12)

For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. (2 Thess. 3:11)

We give thanks to God always for all of you...v.2

What is your orientation or relationship toward the Church? Do you see yourself primarily as part of the Church, _____ of the Church, or over the Church?

Do you see yourself over the Church or under the Word of God? Is it possible that our problem is fundamentally a _____ problem?

...we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God.... (2:13)

our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.... you received the word v.5,6

Are you an _____ of what other Christians ought to be and do? What would happen if all Christians made the choices you make? Where would the Church be?

you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia...v.7

Is it possible that we have _____ our need for the Holy Spirit in our lives—that we have chosen ease and comfort over joy in _____?

Action Items:

Work on _____ the gospel--preach the gospel to yourself—lean into the _____, pray for the _____, and look for opportunities to put your faith into _____.

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