

A Good Church

The Church of the Thessalonians – Acts 17

This church was established by the apostle Paul. He spent three weeks there preaching in the synagogue of the Jews on the Sabbath day. He reasoned with them from the Scriptures that Christ needed to have suffered and to rise again from the dead and that Jesus is Christ. Some Jews believed and many Greeks believed.

Overview:

The Church of the Thessalonians was one of the greatest churches we read about in God's word. The Church at Corinth was one of the worst and most carnal churches we read about in God's word. They sinned like no tomorrow, emphasized gifts of the Spirit and used them improperly. They were a carnal church. In contrast the church of the Thessalonians is a great example of what a local church should be like.

Characteristics of the Church at Thessalonica:

1 Thessalonians

- 1:3 Their work of faith, Labor of love, Patience of hope in the Lord Jesus
- 1:4 They knew their election of God*
- 1:6 They followed Paul and the Lord*
- 1:6 They received the word with much affliction with joy of the Holy Ghost
- 1:7 They were ensamples to other believers
- 1:8 They preached the gospel publicly and openly*
- 1:9 They turned to and served God, they forsook idols
- 1:10 They waited for Jesus to return from heaven
- 2:13 They received the word spoken by Paul as the word of God*
- 2:13 The word of God worked in them effectually because they believed it*
- 2:14 They became followers of the churches of God
- 2:14 Suffered like things of their own countrymen like the Judean believers suffered
- 3:3 They knew they were appointed unto afflictions
- 3:6 They still maintained faith, charity, remembered Paul and desired to see him
- 3:7 Their faith comforted other Christians
- 3:10 Still needed more perfection
- 4:10 They had brotherly loved towards the saints
- 5:1 They knew of the rapture of the church and knew it was before the day of the LORD
- 5:11 They comforted and edified each other

2 Thessalonians

- 1:3 Their faith grew exceedingly, their charity towards each other abounded*
- 1:4 They had patience and faith in all their persecutions and tribulations, enduring them
- 1:10 They believed Paul's testimony
- 2:7 They knew what was withholding the revelation of the antichrist
- 3:1 The word of the Lord was glorified in them
- 3:4 They obeyed the commandments given unto them*
- 3:7 They knew they were to follow Paul's example*

Does the church you go to resemble the church at Thessalonica?

The Christians at Thessalonica believed the word of God, knew they were saved and eternally secure (knew their election), they exhibited the fruits of the Spirit, they preached the word of God in the streets, they followed the Apostle Paul and his example, they suffered persecution for living godly and maintained the right heart attitude during it, they obeyed the commandments given unto them, the word of the Lord was glorified in them, they repented, forsook old dumb idols and served God, they were good examples to other Christians, they loved one another, they knew of the rapture of the church and waited patiently for Jesus Christ to return from heaven.

1:4 They knew their election of God

Elect – Isaiah 42:1, 1 Peter 2:6 (Jesus), Isaiah 45:4, 65:22 (Israel as a nation), Matthew 24:24, Revelation 7 (144,000 elect tribulation male virgin Jews), Romans 8:33, Colossians 3:12, Titus 1:1 (Christians), 1 Peter 1:2?

All of the above that are called “elect” have eternal security. The Thessalonians knew their election of God, and being elect they knew they had eternal security because whoever is elect has eternal security.

1:6 They followed Paul and the Lord

We are to follow Paul’s example (1 Timothy 1:16, 1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1)

1:7-8 They preached publicly

Wisdom is found in the streets crying out (Proverbs 1:20-23, 8:1-4) God spoke throughout history through street preachers and public ministers. The prophets, apostles, and Jesus were all street preachers and public ministers.

Jesus commanded street preaching to be done (Matthew 10:27, Luke 14:21-23, Acts 8:1-4)

Paul did it (Acts 20:20)

Philip (Acts 8:4-8)

Jeremiah and Noah were street preachers (Jeremiah 11:6, 2 Peter 2:5)

Amos (Amos 5:10)

John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-3)

Jesus (Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 5:1-3, 13:1-2, Luke 13:24-27)

Jonah, Moses, Enoch

Moses and Elijah (Revelation 11) Street Preaching not out dated according to God!

People think Street preaching is ineffective or outdated. The Lord thinks otherwise. After the rapture of the church, Moses and Elijah come back to earth and preach in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 ½ years. They could go on TV or build a large building and preach there but instead they choose to preach in the streets! After all God’s wisdom is to be found there!