

sermon notes

March 13, 2022 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship
Kingdom Called | "A Healthy, Praiseworthy Church" | 1 Thess 1:2-10

Three Characteristics of a Healthy, Praiseworthy Church:

- 1) A healthy church _____ fruit (1:2-3)
 - a. _____ *that works*
 - b. _____ *that labors*
 - c. _____ *that perseveres*

- 2) A healthy church _____ the Spirit (1:4-7)
 - a. *embracing the* _____
 - b. *imitating* _____
 - c. *demonstrating* _____

- 3) A healthy church _____ her eyes on the Lord (1:8-10)
 - a. *turning from* _____
 - b. *serving the* _____
 - c. *anticipating* _____

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10. What was the Thessalonian church commended for in this chapter? Who have they imitated according to Paul? Who have they been good examples to?

Paul says the Thessalonians turned from "idols" in order to serve "the true and living God" (1:9). But when Paul went to Thessalonica, the church was started from Jews and God-fearers in the synagogue (See Acts 17:1-9). Jews and God-fearers didn't worship literal idols! What did Paul mean by that statement? What are some idols that we are tempted to serve instead of God in our day?

GET PERSONAL

Paul sees the faith of the Thessalonians as authentic. How would others in your life (family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc.) describe your faith in Christ? What evidence would they cite as proof that you are an authentic follower of Jesus? Would you describe your faith as authentic?

Paul tells the Thessalonians that they "received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit" (1:6). Is it possible to have joy in the midst of affliction? If so, how? Have you ever experienced deep joy in the midst of deep affliction? If so, share your experience.

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

As far as you can tell, was the church in Thessalonica a healthy church? What are the signs of health in chapter 1? Are those "signs" present in your church and in your life as a Christian? What are some ways that you need to get "healthier?"

ADVANCED QUESTION #1

Paul remembered the Thessalonians (in prayer) for their "work of faith" (1:3). What does Paul mean by "work of faith"? Is faith a work? Does faith produce work? What kinds of work does your faith produce? Paul also remembered the Thessalonians for their "labor of love" and "steadfastness of hope" (1:3). Explain both of those terms in your own words. How do these show up in your life?

ADVANCED QUESTION #2

Consider the way that Paul references all three members of the Trinity in 1 Thessalonians 1. How many times is God the Father mentioned in chapter 1? How about the Son, Jesus? How about the Spirit? What is the significance of the Trinity for the Christian life? How does Paul emphasize their different roles in this passage?