



² We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; ³ constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; ⁵ for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:2-10)

As you study the opening comments found in 1 Thessalonians 1, look not only for what the verses say about the church, but also what the verses say to you about being a good example to other believers.

Monday, April 20

Read: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

1. What was it about the Thessalonian church that caused the Apostle Paul to be thankful? (1:2-3)

2. What three virtues are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:13?

3. How are those same virtues attributed to the Thessalonian church in 1:3?

4. How many other Epistles/Letters (read the first few verses of Romans through Jude) mention the same three virtues?

5. Discussion/Application: 1 Corinthians 13:13 say the greatest of the 3 virtues is love. Why (other than "because the Bible says so") is that true?

Saturday, April 25

Read: 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

1. Describe the way the Thessalonians welcomed Paul and his traveling companions.

2. What spiritual change happened in the lives of the Thessalonians?

3. What spiritual truth did the Thessalonians learn about that caused their spiritual turn about?

4. Every chapter in 1 Thessalonians ends by mentioning the return of Christ (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23). When Jesus returns, we will be rescued from the wrath of God. What do you think is meant by the wrath of God?

5. Discussion/Application: Summarize what you learned this week about 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10.

Friday, April 24

Read: 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

1. The Thessalonians not only followed Paul's example, they themselves were an example to others. What was the key to their being a good example? (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

2. What did the Thessalonians actually do to be a good example? (1:8)

3. What difference did the Thessalonian example make in the life of Paul?

4. What difference did the Thessalonian example make to the Macedonians and Achaians? (Romans 15:26; 2 Corinthians 9:1-7; 11:9)

5. Discussion/Application: What church, other than SeaTac Bible Church, has been a good example to you? Does anyone at that church know the impact they have had on your life? How can you encourage them because they have been a good example to you?

Tuesday, April 21

Read: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

1. What further information about God's choice of the Thessalonians is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:13?

2. What did Paul mean by his use of the word "gospel"?

3. What three words/phrases are used to describe the way in which the gospel came to the Thessalonians?

4. What, at the end of verse 5, did Paul do to validate the way in which the gospel came to the Thessalonians?

5. Discussion/Application: What can we as a church do to more effectively and consistently validate the message of the gospel?

Wednesday, April 22

Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:6-7

1. In what way were the Thessalonians like the Apostle Paul and Jesus?

2. How did Jesus suffer because of His commitment to the Word of God?
(1 Peter 2:20-24)

3. How did Paul suffer in Thessalonica because of His commitment to the Word of God? (2 Corinthians 11:21-29)

4. How did some of the Thessalonians suffer because of their commitment to the Word of God? (Acts 17:1-9)

5. Discussion/Application: How do Christians suffer today because of their commitment to the Word of God? Is there anything we can do to relieve their suffering?

Thursday, April 23

Read: 1 Thessalonians 2:6

1. There was not only suffering because of the Word, but also joy. How does your dictionary define "joy"?

2. What circumstances led to Peter's suffering mixed with joy? (Acts 5:40-42)

3. Why would anybody be joyful about suffering? (Romans 5:3-5)

4. What perspective helps us rejoice in the midst of suffering? (Hebrews 10:34)

5. Discussion/Application: Ultimately, who does the most rejoicing when we suffer? (1 Peter 1:3-9)
