

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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Series #2 THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH

“A GOD HONORING CHURCH”

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

Last week we saw that Paul was **Exhorting This Great Church** now this morning we are going to examine the reminder of the chapter as we see

A God Honoring Church. To honor means to show high regards for. Many churches do not honor God with their lives, finances, spiritual gifts, time, energy, don't honor God's word, His will, or His way for us.

Last week I spoke from the first four verses which was Part 1. We examined five truths of this God Honoring Church.

- I. The **Preachers** of the Church V-1a
- II. The **Position** of the Church V-1b
- III. The **Prayer** for the Church V-2
- IV. The **Performance** of the Church V-3
- V. The **Possession** of the Church V-4

Now we will examine **Part 2** of this God Honoring Church.

VI. THE POWER OF THE CHURCH V-5

This is a good verse for the witnessing. Here we have four important things that must accompany the gospel.

A. There must be Exposition

For our gospel came not unto you in word only. (1 Thessalonians 1:5) Now notice that it did not come by the word of God only, but the word of God was involved. No one gets saved apart from the word of God. First and foremost, our gospel must be based on the Word of God. Bible preaching involves preaching the gospel. There are some who preach only the gospel. This is as out of balance as not preaching the gospel. This is why I believe expository preaching to be the best.

There is too much "hit and run" preaching going on that neither feeds nor helps God's people. Don't butcher the Bible to make a point. Stay with the text. Reading a few verses, and then going off on a tangent, never referring back to the text or any other Scripture is not Biblical preaching.

B. There must be Enablement

Paul brought the gospel not only in word but, **also in power, and in the Holy Ghost. (1 Thessalonians 1:5)** Just like no one gets saved without the Word of God, no one gets saved without the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Witnessing - is not a “One, two, three, repeat after me” plan of super salesmanship evangelism that wins the souls of the lost, but it is the child of God filled with the Spirit of God.

C. There must be an Endorsement

The Thessalonian believers received the gospel **in much assurance.**

(1 Thessalonians 1:5) This is an important, but often missed truth in evangelism.

D. There must be Example V-5

Paul said, **as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. (1 Thessalonians 1:5)** The success or failure of evangelism hinges on this truth.

VII. THE PERSECUTION OF THE CHURCH V-6

The Thessalonians were a persecuted people. They had **received the word in much affliction.** Too often conflict and trouble distracts and hinders us, but not the Thessalonian believers. Instead of stalling they stayed by the stuff. Look at what happened:

A. They were Responsible in their Service V-6

Paul says, **And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord...**

(1 Thessalonians 1:6) This is important in these days of easy prayerism and easy believism.

B. They were Receptive of the Scripture V-6

Next, Paul commends them for **having received the word.**

C. They Were Resolute in their Suffering

They received the word in much affliction V-6

D. They Were Rejoicing in the Spirit

Not only did they receive the word in much affliction, but also **with joy of the Holy Ghost V-6**

E. They Were Reflecting the Saviour V-7

F. They were Reaching the Sinful V-8

The Thessalonian believers had a contagious faith.

Then we see in this God Honoring Church:

VIII. THE PURITY OF THE CHURCH V-9

The word **turned** here means to “*revert or turn about.*” This is one of the best examples of **repentance** in the Bible. Repentance requires change. Repentance says, stop doing what you are doing and start doing the right thing. According to the Bible there are three areas affected by Biblical repentance. They are: **A Changed Mind - A Changed Heart – and A Changed Will.**

IX. THE PROSPECT OF THE CHURCH V-10

The wonderful doctrine of the rapture is prominent in every chapter of this epistle. **(1 Thessalonians 2:17, 19; 3:13; 4:15-17; 5:8, 23)** Someone has rightly called this letter “*The Epistle of the Blessed Hope.*”

A. The Return Anticipated

This particular word for **wait, (anamenoô)**, is used only here in the New Testament. It speaks of **imminency.**

B. The Resurrection Authenticated -

Our wait is for Jesus, **whom he raised from the dead V-10**

C. The Rescue Assured-

Jesus has **delivered us from the wrath to come V-10**

The church in Thessalonica was a GOD HONORING CHURCH – and with God's Help it is my desire that BBC of Erie be that kind of church. Amen!