

## #1 The Model Church

### 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

#### AN EXAMPLE WORTH FOLLOWING

**1 Thessalonians 1:1** Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. <sup>2</sup>We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup>We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <sup>7</sup>**And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.** <sup>8</sup>The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, <sup>9</sup>for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

**1. A Model Church is a CONVERTED Church** – Its Members give Evidence of being Genuinely Born Again

A. Evidence shown by how they received the gospel – 1:4-6

B. Evidence shown by the lifestyle fruit of the gospel 1:3

- Faith – Strong confidence that God's Word is true, especially His promises
- Hope – An optimistic outlook on the future based on God's sovereignty
- Love - Self-sacrificing acts of compassion for the good of others that point them to God

**2. A Model Church is a DISCIPLING Church** – Its Members are imitating godly men/women who are following Christ 1:5b-6a

“imitators” - *mimetai*

**Whom you choose to follow has enormous consequences for your life, and your eternity**

**3. A Model Church is a SOUNDING OUT Church** – Its Members are spreading the Gospel near and far 1:7-8

**4. A Model Church is a REPENTING Church** – Its Members are turning away from idols and serving God alone 1:9

**5. A Model Church is an EXPECTANT Church** – Its Members are looking forward with great anticipation to their Savior's Promised Imminent Return 1:10

**Acts 1:11** Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back** in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

**“Come Lord Jesus!”**