

# Chosen to Work



23 August 2020

Imitate Us as We  
Imitate Christ

(Part 1)

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Colossians 3:1-15

### Imitating the Disciple Making Church of Thessalonika

- We are called to BE DISCIPLES and to MAKE DISCIPLES. (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:23; 14:26-33)
- This call goes out to EVERY CHRISTIAN. ALL Christians are disciples of Christ. ALL Christians are active in making new disciples.
- The FIVE D's of discipleship.



- D \_\_\_\_\_

### Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy (1 Thessalonians 1:1)

- Paul, an apostle by the will of God.
- Silas, a disciple of Paul and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 15:27-40; 16:19-29; 17:4-15; Acts 18:5)
- Timothy, a disciple of Paul and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 16:1-3; 17:14-15; 20:4; Philip 1:1; Colossians 1:1, 1&2 Tim)

### Greeting (1 Thessalonians 1:1)

- **GRACE** - God's continued favor & strength. (James 4:6; 2 Cor 12:9-10)
- **PEACE** - Peace with God and all men. (Philippians 4:6-9; Hebrews 12:14)

### Paul's Purpose for Writing to the Thessalonians

- To ground this church in Biblical doctrine.

- The church was undergoing great persecution and the temptation to compromise was great.
- He wanted the Church to **LIVE** holy lives in the midst of moral decay.
- He wrote to clear up confusion:
  - Confusion about the return of Christ.
  - Confusion about the "Day of the LORD."
  - Confusion about living holy lives.
  - Confusion about respect for spiritual leadership.

### A Church to Imitate (1 Thessalonians 1:1)

- Church: ἐκκλησία ekklesia {ek-klay-see'-ah} "called out ones"
  - "Called out" by God: (Romans 8:28-30)
  - "Called out" of darkness. (1 Peter 2:9; Colossians 1:13)
  - "Called out" to praise. (1 Peter 2:9)
  - "Called out" unto His eternal glory. (1 Peter 5:10; John 17:22)
  - This is a PERSONAL call. (John 11:43)
  - Paul calls it a HIGH CALLING. (Philippians 3:14)
  - We are to "walk worthy" of this calling. (Ephesians 4:1)
- Church: ἐκκλησία ekklesia {ek-klay-see'-ah} "an assembly"
- Church: A **BODY** made up of many members that belong to one another (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-22; Colossians 2:2), grow together (Ephesians 4:16); prays together (Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 12:12); studies together (Acts 2:42); fellowships together (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25)
- The Bible (God) does not teach that you can be a private Christian.
- A church is made up of "saints". (Romans 1:6-7; 1 Corinthians 1:2)
  - "saints" – "holy ones"; "separated ones"; "different"
  - If you are not a saint you are not a Christian.

### Imitating the Saints at Thessalonika (1 Thessalonians 1:2-4)

- ① **Loved of God.** "Beloved brethren . . ."
  - A SPECIAL love. (Romans 9:13; Psalm 5:5; 7:11; Malachi 1:2-3)
  - UNCONDITIONAL love. (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)
  - An ENDLESS, PERFECT love. (Romans 8:37-39; Jeremiah 31:3)
  - A GREAT love. (Ephesians 2:4)
  - A SERVING love. (Matthew 20:28; Philip 2:7)
  - A love that gave all. (Gal 2:20; Eph 5:2; Philip 2:5-8; 2 Cor 8:9)
  - A PROPITIATORY love. (1 John 4:10-11)
  - A love that expects us to love in the same way. (1 John 3:16; 4:11)

## ② Elect of God.

- Chosen by God before the foundation of the world.
  - “from the beginning” – 2 Thessalonians 2:13
  - “from the foundation of the world” – Ephesians 1:4
- God chooses us – **NOT** the other way around. (John 15:16)

## ③ Salvation and the Trinity (1 Peter 1:2)

- God, the Father, chose **His people** “in Christ” before He created. (Eph 1:4)
- God, the Son, died for **those given to Him by the Father** when He died on the Cross 2000 years ago. (Matt 1:21; Gal 2:20)
- God, the Holy Spirit, enlightens **those whom Christ died** by applying the truth to our hearts. (Romans 8:14; 2 Corinthians 2:10-14)

## ④ Works (1 Thessalonians 1:3)

- Paul said He **knew** the Thessalonians election by their **WORKS**.
- NO WORK means NO SALVATION! NO WORK means you are NOT a believer. NO WORK means you are not going to heaven. (Matthew 7:21)
- GOD saves us because He has **work** for us to do! (Ephesians 2:10)
- “work” - (ἔργον ergon {er'-gon}) – “that which occupies a person”; “the idea is emphasized in opposition to that which is less than work”
- **FAITH** *always* leads to works. (James 2:14-26)  
“We are not saved by faith plus works, **but by faith that works.**”
- **Labor** (κόπος - kopos - laborious toil; wearying kind of toil; done to the point of exhaustion) of **LOVE**. Love obeys (does) the commandments/will of God. (John 14:15, 21, 23, 24; 15:14; 1 John 5:2-3)
  - ♥ This kind of labor is motivated, energized, done out of *agape* love.
  - ♥ This is a fervent love for God because of all He has done in saving us and making us His own. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 5:3) **Meditate on Luke 7:47.**
  - ♥ This is a fervent love for the brethren. (1 Peter 1:22; 4:8; Proverbs 10:12; John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:16-18; 4:10-11)

## ⑤ Endurance of HOPE longs for the return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

- “endurance or patience” (ὑπομονή hupomone {hoop-om-on-ay'}) - in the NT this is a characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his **deliberate purpose** and his **loyalty** to faith **and** piety by even the **greatest** trials and sufferings!
- Hope while eagerly awaiting Christ return with perseverance. (v. 10; Romans 8:23, 25; Hebrews 11:13-16)
- Christ is coming for those who long for His return. (Hebrews 9:28)

- As we long for His return we are diligent in living our lives as we should. (2 Peter 3:12-14; **1 John 3:2-3**; 2 Cor 7:1)
- We will receive new bodies when He returns. (Philippians 3:20-21)
- There is a crown waiting for us. (2 Timothy 4:8)
- We also know that we will give an account for all we have or have not done. Therefore, “we make it our aim to be well-pleasing in His sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)
- Only those who endure to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:22)
- Christians are **STEADFAST** in their faith **ALWAYS** **ABOUNDING** in the work of the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

★ Faith, Love, Works, Endurance and Hope are evidences of election.

★ **We are commanded to make our calling and election sure.** (2 Peter 1:10)

## Imitate Us As We Imitate Christ!

- A Church to imitate is one made up of people who have been “**CALLED-OUT**” of darkness into light and walk in that light. (1 John 1:6-7; 1 Peter 2:9)
- A Church to imitate is one who knows that they are a **BODY** and that each and every member has work to do in the **BODY** so the whole **Body** can grow. (Ephesians 4:16)
- A Church to imitate is one who knows that they **need** each other. (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-22)
- A Church to imitate is made up of people who know they have been **CHOSEN** by God according to His purposes. (Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:4-5)
- A Church to imitate is made up of people who know they have been **SAVED** by a Triune God. (Ephesians 1:3-14; Heb 7:25; Psalm 138:8)
- A Church to imitate is made up of people who are **WORKING** out their salvation together **showing** their election! (Philippians 2:12; James 2:14-26)
- A Church to imitate is one who’s “food to do the work of the Father and to finish His work.” (John 4:34; Matthew 7:21)
- A Church to imitate is one made up of people longing for Christ’s return. (Luke 12:37; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:11-14)