



1 Thessalonians
Review: From Sermon 1.2.22

Read *1 Thessalonians 1:2-5*

Review from Sunday's sermon: After a two-month break, we finally return to our verse-by-verse study in the letters to the Thessalonians. With our busy lives and minds, it's easy to forget that which we've already covered. So, a review is in order. This was a baby church, but one that was making Paul both proud and joyful. To instruct future churches, these letters give an x-ray of what healthy fellowships and believers look like. It contains vital goals for the leaders and the members of any biblical church.

1. What were some of the characteristics of the Church in Thessalonica? Various answers. But, include: they were very young. They were surrounded by a pagan culture, idolatry, and temptations. They accepted the Word of God and trusted in its power. They loved Jesus—therefore they loved His Word, His Church, the Fellowship, Worship, Ministry, Maturity, & Structure.

1a. How are they similar to New Heights? Various personal answers. We are surrounded by an ever-darkening world. Most of what calls itself "the church" has already caved to the cultural demands. We are becoming a rare species. We strive to please God alone by preaching and living the Word.

1b. How are they different? Again, various answers. They were a brand new, baby church. They did not have the whole of Scripture (the rest of the New Testament) to rely on. They were started by the Apostle Paul and had Timothy dropping by for questions and reports. They were infiltrated by false teachers.

2. Discuss the Holy Spirit structuring Paul's writing to 1st address character and maturity. Then, 2nd—End Times. In God's wisdom, He knows we need to have our daily lives, our spiritual walk, and a healthy church before we are ready to tackle and consider the dark days and persecution. He knows the best way to understand and interpret prophecy is to first know the whole of Scripture.

[Note: exact same structure as Revelation & Daniel]

3. What does it mean for someone to say they "love" Jesus, but dislike/neglect the Bible, Church, Worship, Growth, Holiness, or the Biblical Structure (Christ-Male Elders-Deacons-Members)? They are kidding themselves. They do not actually love, know, and understand the real Jesus. We cannot remake and refashion Jesus into something of our own liking and convenience. Jesus and the Word are inseparable.

4. Read *1 Thessalonians 2:7-12*. What word picture does the Spirit have Paul paint regarding the qualities needed in godly Elders? That of Spiritual Mothering & Spiritual Fathering.

4a. List some traits and virtues in each.

- Spiritual Mothering: nurturing, providing, feeding, nursing, affection
- Spiritual Fathering: discipline, training/teaching, protecting

5. For quite some time, what has been the trend in Western Evangelical churches regarding who they target at pleasing? The crowd. In their: Worship music, Dress, Teaching/doctrine. Discipline.

See also 1 Thessalonians 2:4-6 & Galatians 1:10