



1 Thessalonians 3:1-10
Supplemental Sermon from 1.16.22

Read *1 Thessalonians 3:1-10*

Review from Sunday's Sermon: From pulpit and passage previews, we know a major shift in topic is coming up in the Thessalonian study. Paul has commended the baby church and outlined biblical leadership for 3 chapters. With only a short section on personal conduct still to cover, the Spirit will then have him explain the return of Christ. For us, however, an overdue reset is in order. Learning the material is important. Yes, we need more than an overview of church structure—details matter. But, we don't want to get lost in the details and miss the main point in all things. This special, supplemental message was to stop and see the glory of the main character of all sacred Scripture.

1. Regardless of the series, sermon, topic, or Bible book or passage, who should be the focus in all things? Jesus Christ. If we fail to see Him in all things, we've missed the mark—becoming bible scholars vs. disciples.
See also *Luke 24:27 & 44*
2. Rather than focus on Christ, His commands, and His Holy nature, what has been the trend and focus in the western evangelical church? Various Answers. To make message, service, ministry, focus on the attendee. To make the hearer feel better. In the liberal church, it's to make God common, relative, safe, and lawless. Social Issues
3. From Sunday: What are the 7 characteristics and practices of Jesus & Paul, which should be evident in all biblical elders: Give an example for each.
 - Affection: Jesus modeled love in His actions. He longed to be with Apostles. Paul desired fellowship with church.
 - Sacrifice—Jesus laid down His life for the elect. Paul sends Timothy, when he could have really used him.
 - Compassion: both Jesus and Paul faced the world and persecution. They could relate to all aspects of life.
 - Protectiveness—Jesus was/is the Great Shepherd—guarding the flock. Paul was fighting the spiritual warfare.
 - Delight—Jesus and Paul used their words (as well as actions) to commend the church in righteousness.
 - Gratitude—Jesus thanked the Father for all things. Paul modeled the same and gave due praise.
 - Intercession—One of the great truths = Jesus is (now) our Great High Priest. He intercedes for us in heaven's throne room, as the enemy accuses. Paul went before God on behalf of the church.
4. Regarding Sacrifice: Read *John 10:11* = Jesus modeling sacrificial shepherding. Discuss the role and duty of a shepherd (not in the church, but in the field). Compare it, then, to the celebrity TV leadership personalities who call on members/viewers to sacrifice, for the gain/riches/pleasures of the leader. Example: Jets, Houses, Cars, Influence, Commercial empire, Flashy Clothes.
5. Regarding Compassion: List some feelings/emotions that Jesus went through that we all do in the human experience. Joy, anger, sorrow, loneliness, peace, frustration...Yet, they did not bring Him down, define Him (vs. today's victim culture), or cause sin. See also *Hebrews 4:14-16*. What victory is there, in that truth, for us?
6. Regarding Protectiveness: Is it just guarding the flock from the outside threats = wolves, thieves, and the enemy? No. it's also protecting from the "sin from within". The sin of the members. See also *1 Corinthians 5:2-7 & 12-13*