

# WHAT EVERY CHURCH SHOULD BE

1 Thessalonians 1

# THANKS!

No church is perfect, but some are more ideal than others:

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1:2 "We thank God always for you."

2:13 "We constantly thank God for the way you received the Word from us."

3:9 "We thank God for the joy you bring us."

# AN ELECT PEOPLE

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-4**

*"...knowing God's choice of you..."*

**2 Thessalonians 2:13**

*"God chose you from the beginning for salvation."*

# AN ELECT PEOPLE

1:1 *"the church" = "called out ones"*

*A call indicates Divine Election*

*God is calling out people from this world*

**John 17**, Jesus refers to believers 7x as  
"those the Father gave Me out of this  
world."

# DIVINE ELECTION

1. Salvation begins with God; the initiating will is God's not man's; John 15:16, "*You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you.*" Ephesians 1:4, "*God the Father chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world.*"

# DIVINE ELECTION

2. Salvation involves God's love; but it is God's grace that saves sinners.

*"Brethren beloved by God" – 1 Thess. 1:4*

*"Grace to you" – 1 Thessalonians 1:1*

# DIVINE ELECTION

3. Salvation involves faith; man's will participates in response to God's promptings. "*You received the word (6 - faith) and turned away from idols" (9-repentance). Ephesians 2:8, "You are saved by grace through faith."* The Spirit of God used the Word of God to generate faith (1:5; Romans 10:17).

# 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13

*"God has chosen you from the beginning  
for salvation through sanctification  
by the Spirit  
and by faith in the Truth."*

# DIVINE ELECTION

4. Salvation involves the Trinity; God the Father chose you in Christ before the world began; God the Son died for your sins on His cross; God the Spirit convicted you of your sins and regenerated you, then sealed your salvation and placed you in Christ.

# DIVINE ELECTION

5. Salvation changes your life; how did Paul know the Thessalonians were elected of God? *He saw a change in their lives!*

Those whom God chooses, He changes!

One who claims to be elect, but whose life has not changed, is deceived.

# CHANGED & REARRANGED

## 1 Thessalonians 1:3

*"your work of faith"*

*"your labor of love"*

*"your patience and hope"*

## 1 Thess. 1:9-10

*"you turned to God from idols"*

*"you serve the living and true God"*

*"you wait for Jesus"*

# AN EXEMPLARY PEOPLE

1. They received the Word of God (5-6), and did not lose their eagerness for it (2:13).
2. They followed their spiritual leaders (6a).  
*"imitators of us and of the Lord"*  
*"imitators of churches in Judea" (2:14)*

# EXEMPLARY PEOPLE

3. They suffered for Christ (6b); faith is always tested and persecution is one of the tests; **1 Thessalonians 2:14-16**, "*You endured suffering at the hands of your own countrymen.*"

# EXEMPLARY PEOPLE

4. They encouraged other churches (7); "*an example*" = a seal that marks wax or a stamp that minted coins; churches should not compete with each other but should "*stimulate each other to love and good deeds*" (Hebrews 10:24).

# AN ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE

1. They “received the Word” and transmitted the Word; “*sounded forth*” = “to reverberate; to sound as a trumpet;” they had a local outreach in Thessaloniki, a national outreach in Macedonia and Achaia, and an international influence “*in every place their faith went forth*” (1:8).

# ENTHUSIASTIC PEOPLE

2. Election and Evangelism go hand in hand; election always involves responsibility; God chooses us so that we might witness for Him. God always uses people to call out His elect, "*He called you by our gospel* (1:5; 2 Thess. 2:14).

# AN EXPECTANT PEOPLE

1. Their "*steadfastness of hope*" (1:3) made them an expectant people, waiting for Christ's return; the Second Coming of Christ (10) was related to their salvation (9); because they had trusted in Christ, they looked for His return with joyful expectancy and knew they would be delivered from the "wrath to come."

# EXPECTANT PEOPLE

2. A living God means a living hope!

*"wait" = "patience, confidence, expectantly" = it involves activity and endurance; prove our faith by keeping busy and obeying His Word; Luke 19:11-27*

# EXPECTANT PEOPLE

3. Expecting the Lord's return is a great motivation for soul-winning and Christian stability; **1 Thessalonians 2:19-20; 3:11-13**. It is a wonderful comfort in sorrow, and a great encouragement for godly living; **4:13-18; 5:23-24**.

# THE CHURCH IS “WE”

1. Elect – born again
2. Exemplary – imitating the right people
3. Enthusiastic – sharing the Gospel
4. Expectant – daily looking for Jesus Christ to return; and living as if He will return today!