

LIVING THE CHRISTLIFE
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HILLTOP LAKES CHAPEL
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1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

—1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (ESV)

What are we known for?

v 3 – “your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ”

The three things that abide—faith, hope, and love

Are we known for these qualities?

“work of faith” – means much more than going to church

Faith means hearing God and responding in trusting obedience

Being nice and having good intentions is not the same thing as having faith

The main question is What is God directing us to do?—not How are we going to do it?

Affirmation follows obedience

“labor of love”

Love should characterize our fellowship

Love should be our motivation—love is why we do it

“labor of love” involves labor—it is not just a feeling

Without love we are not honoring Christ

“steadfastness of hope”

“steadfastness” means patiently waiting with expectation, like a farmer or a gardener

“hope” is a certainty that has not yet arrived; it is not just a fervent wish in our Lord Jesus Christ – it’s personal!

“Knowing, brothers loved by God, your election...”

We are all chosen in Christ

“even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world” – Ephesians 1:4

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.—2 Peter 3:9

Both are true.

v 5 – “because our gospel came to you...”

Their response to the gospel was dramatic, life-changing, and will full nothing-held-back commitment

Power – their lives were changed; they were not the same people

In the Holy Spirit – conversion is not just a matter of beliefs, it is spiritual life and transformation—it is a super-natural experience, although it does not have to be highly emotional

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity; He is certainly not an emotion or an attitude. He is our Friend, Counselor, Teacher, Helper, Guide. He produces His fruit in us. He gives spiritual gifts for the upbuilding of the Church. Christ is the Head of the Church—and the Holy Spirit is the Administrator of the Church. He is our seal and assurance that we belong to Christ. He prays for us and through us. He is the Spirit of Truth, and He will abide with us forever.

“with full conviction”

Conviction of sin? Yes!

And full conviction about every other truth of God!

Jesus has not called us to be half-committed, half-in, so-so, not sure, maybe-maybe not

And He is not half committed to us!

vv 7-8 – “so that you became an example...”

Can that be said of us?

What would we like to be said?

People at Hilltop Lakes Chapel love Jesus Christ!

People at Hilltop Lakes Chapel love each other.

People at Hilltop Lakes Chapel show love to everyone.

People at Hilltop Lakes Chapel are doing great things for God.

That church obviously walks by faith!

That church has something I want!

v 10 – “Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

There is no conflict between truth and love

The world is under judgment for sin, and Jesus is God’s deliverance from that judgment.

We have to be faithful proclaimers of the gospel—and we should be known for that.