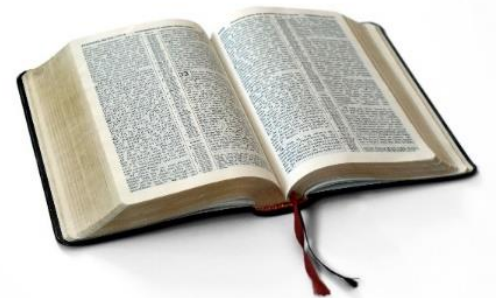




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A Model Church

“... you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia...”

1 Thessalonians 1:8

Thessalonica: A Model Church

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Thessalonica: A Model Church

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- But, why were they a model? What did they do to become a model?

Thessalonica: A Model Church

- They were a model (1:7-8)
- But, why were they a model? What did they do to become a model?
- They were a model because their whole spiritual existence revolved around their relationship with God

1. Received the Word of God

- They accepted the preaching as the word of God (2:13; note the “gospel of God” in 2:2, 8, 9)

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- They accepted the preaching as the word of God (2:13; note the “gospel of God” in 2:2, 8, 9)
- We are a model when we receive every scripture as God’s word, not as man’s word (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

2. Turned to God

- Their faith was toward God (1:8)
- They turned to(ward) God from idols (1:9)

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- Their faith was toward God (1:8)
- They turned to(ward) God from idols (1:9)
- We are a model when we turn toward God and away from all else in life (Lk. 1:17; Acts 26:18)

3. Church in God

- They became a church in God (1:1)

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- They became a church in God (1:1)
- We are a model when we are constantly dwelling in God, not only part-time (Col. 3:3; 1 Jn. 4:15-16; Jude 1)

4. Service to God

- Their service was directed to God and before God (1:3, 9-10)

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- Their service was directed to God and before God (1:3, 9-10)
- We are a model when we are serving God and not ourselves – active service combined with patient waiting (Acts 13:36; 27:23; Heb. 9:14; Rev. 7:15; 22:3)

5. Walk and Please God

- They walked (lived) in a way that was worthy of God and pleasing to him (2:12; 4:1; note “please not God” in 2:15) ... they followed the “will of God” (4:3, 5, 7, 8)

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- They walked (lived) in a way that was worthy of God and pleasing to him (2:12; 4:1; note “please not God” in 2:15) ... they followed the “will of God” (4:3, 5, 7, 8)
- We are a model when we live to please God and not mankind (Rom. 8:8; Gal. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:15)

6. Taught of God

- They were taught of God (4:9)

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- They were taught of God (4:9)
- We are a model when we allow ourselves to be open to God's teaching, not man's ideologies (Psa. 71:17; Jn. 6:45)

7. Sanctified by God

- They had the God of peace to sanctify them wholly (5:23)

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- They had the God of peace to sanctify them wholly (5:23)
- We are a model when we allow ourselves to be sanctified (set apart) in every aspect of our life, not just parts of it (Eph. 5:26-27)

A Model Church

When Every Part of This Church
Is Closely Connected and Directed
by God