



Be Encouraged
1 Thessalonians 1:4-10
Imitators

This is the third sermon in the Be Encouraged Series. You might want to do a short review of the first three verses just to keep it in the forefront of minds. Weeks get busy and we forget at times how all of this fits together.

Also, thank you for faithfully preparing to host your group. Know that you are being prayed for as you prepare and host.

“For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 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. 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, “so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 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. 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, 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 1:4-10 ESV

Ask, What is the beauty in being “chosen”?

v. 4 – God has chosen us and we are loved by Him.

God chose the Thessalonians as His own children and He is our Father

What is a significance of first being loved by God? We love because God first loved us and chose us as His own. *We love because he first loved us. 1 john 4:19*

How many words do you use on average per day? Some studies say women use about 20, 000 words per day while men use 7, 000 words per day. Other studies would say that women use 16, 500 words per day while men use 15, 500 words per day. Regardless, we use a lot of words. How many of your words per day are about who Christ is or how He is making a difference in your life?

v. 5 – the gospel came in Word – they shared the truth of the gospel by using their words. Our words are used by the Holy Spirit – God is involved in it and He is the One who brings others to Himself. **USE YOUR WORDS!**

v. 6 – Paul, Silas and Timothy talked about how they saw them imitating the three of them as they imitate God. When it comes to your talents, hobbies, or career pursuits: Who do we want to imitate? Can you imitate someone that you do not know or have never met? You can only imitate by knowing and watching someone.

Ask the group to consider this question - Who or what am I imitating? Do your actions match your words?

v. 6 - How are we to handle afflictions? – Notice the connection to the Word. Facing and handling afflictions are to be grounded in God’s Word. The writers noted that the Thessalonians received the Word in much trouble and yet with the joy of the HS – it is not quenched by the afflictions of life. Affliction is not avoided in the Christian life- in fact, we sign up for lifelong conflict when we accept Christ.

v. 7-9 - Paul heard of their faithfulness because they were sharing the gospel and their lives were being transformed to serving God and turning away from idols.

Which idols are yours? Who or what are you chasing that is not God?

Choose wisely whom you imitate. How do you know whom to imitate? The living and true God. We can observe others who are living for Christ but be careful to imitate those who point to God and not to themselves.

v. 10 - Are you in God’s Waiting Room right now? How are you learning to trust Him while waiting? It requires us to wait on Him, whom God raised from the dead, this same Jesus delivers us from the wrath of God.

Here are some points to ponder this week – (you might want to give people time to discuss some of these points and how they affect their lives this week.)

- Embrace that God has chosen you.
- Face affliction with joy from the HS
- Share the Word of Jesus
- Have a faith in God that is share worthy
- Turn from idols
- Serve God in His mission
- Wait for Jesus

Notice that throughout the first ten verses that we have studied the last three weeks, Paul, Silas and Timothy keep reminding them of God the Father and Jesus the Son. They were reminding the Thessalonians that Jesus really is God and that the truth that they have taught them and modeled for them is what they want them to emulate.

Keep pointing people to Jesus. Remind yourself of who Jesus is and use your words to let others know the truth of the Gospel.

Take time for prayer requests and pray.