



JOHN 4:28 - 30 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. JOHN 4:28 - 30

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. JOHN 4:28 - 30

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. JOHN 4:28 - 30

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. JOHN 4:28 - 30

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. JOHN 4:28 - 30

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. JOHN 4:28 - 30

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. JOHN 4:28 - 30

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. JOHN 4:28 - 30

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. JOHN 4:28 - 30

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him. JOHN 4:28 - 30

What Every Church Should Be **Part 2**

(Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 159.)

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10 (NKJV)

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

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to 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, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

An Exemplary People

(1 Thes. 1:5–7)

From the very inception of this church, Paul looked to them with joy and gratitude as Christians worthy of the name. They were examples in several areas of their lives.

1.

They Received The Word

v. 5

They received the Word (v. 5). The Gospel came to them through the ministry of Paul and his associates. Many traveling preachers and philosophers in that day were only interested in making money from people.

But the Holy Spirit used the Word in great power, and the Thessalonians responded by receiving both the message and the messengers.

1.

They Received The Word

v. 5

In spite of the persecution in Philippi, Paul and Silas had been “bold ... to speak ... the Gospel; and the people believed and were saved.

1 Thessalonians 2:2 (NKJV)

But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

1.

They Received The Word

v. 5

They never lost that eagerness for the Word of God (*1 Thes. 2:13*).

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

2. They Followed Their Spiritual Leaders

v. 6a

They followed their spiritual leaders (v. 6a). The word “followers” is actually “imitators.”

These new believers not only accepted the message and the messengers, but they also imitated their lives.

This led to severe persecution. It is important that young Christians respect spiritual leadership and learn from mature believers.

2.

They Followed Their Spiritual Leaders

v. 6a

Just as a newborn baby needs a family, so a newborn Christian needs the local church and the leaders there.

Hebrews 13:17 (NKJV)

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

2. They Followed Their Spiritual Leaders

v. 6a

It is not enough for us as mature believers to win souls; we must also watch for souls and encourage new Christians to obey God's Word.

3.

They Suffered For Christ

v. 6b

They suffered for Christ (v. 6b). In turning from idols to serve God, these believers angered their friends and relatives, and this led to persecution.

3.

They Suffered For Christ

v. 6b

1 Thessalonians 2:14–16 (NKJV)

14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans,

15 who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,

3. They Suffered For Christ

v. 6b

16 forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

Faith is always tested, and persecution is one of the tests.

4. They Encouraged Other Churches

v. 7

They encouraged other churches (v. 7). Christians either encourage or discourage each other. This principle applies also to churches.

Paul used the churches of Macedonia as a stimulus for the Corinthian church to give to the missionary offering (2 Cor. 8:1–8).

Even though they were new believers, the Thessalonians set a good example that encouraged the surrounding assemblies.

We Don't Compete With Each Other

Christians must never compete with one another in a worldly manner, but they can “provoke unto love and to good works” (Heb. 10:24).

In every way, the church at Thessalonica was exemplary.

The secret was found in their faith, hope, and love; for these are the spiritual motivators of the Christian life.

5.

An Enthusiastic People

1 Thes. 1:8

Their “**work of faith and labor of love**” expressed itself in their sharing of the Gospel with others.

They were both “**receivers**” (*the Word came to them, 1 Thes. 1:5*) and “**transmitters**” (*the Word went out from them, 1 Thes. 1:8*).

Each believer and each local church must receive and transmit God’s Word.

The verb sounded out actually means “to sound as a trumpet.”

They were trumpeting forth the Good News of salvation, and their message had a clear and certain sound to it *(1 Cor. 14:8)*.

1 Corinthians 14:8 (NKJV)

For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?

Wherever Paul went, the people told him about the faith of the Thessalonian believers. They were clear about Jesus!

It is the responsibility and privilege of each local church to share the message of salvation with the lost world.

At the end of each of the four Gospels and at the beginning of the Book of Acts, there are commissions for the churches to obey (*Matt. 28:18–20; Mark 16:15–16; Luke 24:46–49; John 20:21; Acts 1:8*).

Many congregations are content to pay a staff to do the witnessing and soul-winning. But in New Testament churches, the entire congregation was involved in sharing the Good News (*Acts 2:44–47; 5:42*).

A recent survey of church growth indicated that 70 to 80 percent of a church's growth is the result of friends witnessing to friends and relatives to relatives.

While visitation evangelism and other methods of outreach help, the personal contact brings the harvest.

Election and evangelism go together. The person who says, "God will save those He wants to save and He doesn't need my help!" understands neither election nor evangelism.

In the Bible, election always involves responsibility.

God chose Israel and made them an elect nation so that they might witness to the Gentiles.

In the same way, God has chosen the church that we might be witnesses today.

The fact that we are God's elect people does not excuse us from the task of evangelism.

On the contrary, the doctrine of election is one of the greatest encouragements to evangelism.

Paul's experience at Corinth (*Acts 18:1–11*) is a perfect illustration of this truth. Corinth was a wicked city, and it was not easy to start a church there. The people were godless sinners (*1 Cor. 6:9–11*), but Paul preached the Word faithfully.

If salvation were the work of man, we would have every right to be discouraged and quit. But salvation is the work of God, and He uses people to call out His elect.

“He called you by our Gospel” (*2 Thes. 2:14*). The same God who ordains the end (*the salvation of the lost*) also ordains the means to the end (*the preaching of the Gospel*). There is no conflict between divine sovereignty and human responsibility, even though we cannot reconcile the two.

We need more churches today where the people are enthusiastic to share the message of salvation with others.

2.4 billion people in our world have no visible witness of the Gospel in their midst, or no church body.

In spite of the outreach of radio, television, and the printing press, we are losing ground in the work of reaching the lost.



Are You An Enthusiastic Christian?

Is Our Church Enthusiastic About Witnessing?

JOHN 4:28 - 30 The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him.