

Home Group Helps

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Living in the Light of His Return: Being a Christian Example

⁶ You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation 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 the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Five Aspects of Being a Christian Example:

I. Being an Example of Godly Imitation (v.6a) – ⁶ You also became imitators of us and of the Lord,

II. Being an Example of Joy in Difficulty (v.6b-7) – having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

III. Being an Example of Faith Toward God (v.8) – ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

IV. Being an Example of a New Orientation (v.9) – ⁹ For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,

V. Being an Example of Living in the Light of His Return (v.10) – ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1. Launching Question(s):

- How have you benefited from the example of a more mature Christian in your past?

2. Observation Question(s):

- In vs. 6, Paul praises the Thessalonians for imitating himself and the Lord. What are some ways in which you might also be imitators of Paul and Christ?
- Paul says that the church, “received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit.”
- He also says in Rom. 5:3b-5 – “we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”
- What, therefore, motivates us to be joyful in tribulation?
- How does this truth conflict with the principles of modern “Prosperity Theology?”

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- Paul praises the Thessalonians for turning “to God from idols to serve a living and true God” (v. 9).
- What does this statement tell you about the makeup of the Thessalonian church?
- What is involved with this “turning?”
- What is significant about our God being a “living” God and a “true” God?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Ponder and discuss what it means that Jesus “rescues us from the wrath to come” (v. 10).

5. Application Question(s):

- What is one area in your life where you can focus upon being a Christian example this week?