

High Peaks Bible Fellowship

Imitating Jesus Even Under Pressure (1 Thessalonians [1:5-10](#))

Knowing by observation (1 Thess. [1:5b](#))

- Just as Paul *knew by observation* something about the Thessalonians, so also the Thessalonians *knew by observation* something about Paul and his companions.
- They had proved themselves to be unselfish and faithful ministers devoted to the new believers

The Thessalonians imitated Paul, just as Paul sought to imitate Jesus (1 Thess. [1:6](#))

- Tribulation = they were under pressure, but they maintained joy in the midst of trials and persecutions.

The result of their righteous reaction (1 Thess. [1:7](#))

- They became an example to all the believers in the entire region.
- Example (*tupos*) = something that is reproduced by means of striking a blow or by extreme pressure.

Their joyful reaction in the midst of pressure sent a shock wave across the entire region (1 Thess. [1:8](#))

- Every place that was connected to Thessalonica (by sea and by land) heard the echo of their faithfulness.
- Paul and his companions were not the ones who spread the news -- they heard it wherever they went.

Two aspects of the Thessalonians "turning to God" (1 Thess. [1:9-10a](#))

- First, they did an "about face" -- they turned away from their dead and false pagan idols, and they turned to the living and true God.
- Second, they were *continually awaiting* the return of God's Son from heaven.

The doctrine of the rapture of the Church mentioned (1 Thess. [1:10b](#))

- Rescue = "draw to oneself, drag out of harm's way"
- From = "out from." Not *in* or *through*, but *outside* of the wrath.
- The wrath = a specific future time of God's wrath poured out on mankind during the Great Tribulation (see also 1 Thess. [5:9](#)).

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Our primary purpose is to uphold the truths of the Word of God.

I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. (1 Timothy 3:15)

Our primary responsibility is to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)