

A Church to Rejoice Over
1 Thessalonians
May 5, 2024

Short story...the church in Thessalonica was doing it right. So that makes them a model for us.

These churches were established by the highest level of spiritual leadership possible: apostolic leadership.

Five of those seven churches named in Revelation are so fatally flawed that they are condemned by the Lord, for one sin or another or a combination of many. And they are threatened with non-existence if they do not change.

Before the end of the first century, there were churches that had become so corrupted and dysfunctional that the Lord threatened to remove their light; to close them down before they could do any more damage.

There were the churches in Corinth and Galatia and Ephesus, all of which had succumbed to false teachings, or were marked by false pride, discord, and division.

The circumstances of the church in Thessalonica were no different than those of other churches established by the apostles. Their environment, the culture around them, was as bad and evil as the rest of the pagan world.

Paul says to the Thessalonian church, "Keep doing what you're doing, but get even better at it."

Paul was reluctant to go revisit some churches. He was afraid to go to some churches, for what he would find. But he could not wait to get to Thessalonica.

The Lord took the temperature of the Thessalonian church, and it was normal, it was what it should be.

Timothy had come back and said, "This is a church to rejoice over," and Paul rejoiced.

"But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love...Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 3:6-8

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