

Jun 6, 2010 Sunday School Lesson
Visible to God
1 Thessalonians 1

Introduction

In this scripture Paul encourages the Thessalonians to live in a way that bears witness to the Christ in them.

Greetings to the Believers (v. 1)

- Paul had gotten word from Timothy that the church was doing well but still had questions. He greeted them by wishing grace and peace from the Father. This is how Paul frequently begins his letters.

Faith of the Believers (vv. 2-3)

- Paul goes on to tell the Church that he and the others were always in prayer for them. He commends their faith and work for the ministry as had been told to him by Timothy.

Choice of the Believers (4-7)

- Paul acknowledges that the Thessalonians had made a choice to follow Christ despite the suffering it caused. He tells them that they have been positive examples to all believers in their area because they continue to follow Christ no matter what the cost.

Witness of the Believers (vv.8-10)

- Paul tells the Thessalonians that their lifestyle, their faith and their hope for the future stand out and witness to those around them. Paul applauds this and encourages them to continue to look forward to the day when Jesus will come again.

Life Application

As believers, we have an opportunity to witness through the way we live our daily lives. When we come to Christ we come with the understanding that serving Christ is a lifestyle. Our commitment to Christ should be seen in all aspects of our lives so that others will see Christ in us and possibly get to know Him through us. It won't be easy, but we can hold on to our hope for deliverance when Christ returns.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. – Romans 12:2

Questions for Discussion and Meditation

- *Why would God allow Christians to be persecuted?*
- *Why should Christians pray for one another?*
- *Why is it important that we live our faith?*

Preview of Next Week's Lesson

- In this lesson, Paul writes to the Thessalonians on living a God-centered life.