

## Centered around the GOSPEL of God (1:5-8)

1. They WELCOMED the Gospel (1:6)
2. They were LIVING the Gospel (1:7)
3. They were SOUNDING FORTH the Gospel (1:8)

## Waiting for the SON of God (1:9-10)

- The whole surrounding community knew their FAITH STORY (1:9)
- WORKING and WAITING were both vital parts of their faith (1:10)
- Jesus was RAISED to RESCUE us from the wrath to come (1:10)

The Church of the Thessalonians was remarkable in a number of ways . . .

- A YOUNG church
- A PERSECUTED church
- A SOLID church
- A MISSIONAL church

Paul begins his letter by reminding them WHO THEY ARE in God and affirming HOW THEY ARE LIVING for God.

## The CHURCH of God (1:1-4)

1. The church IN God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (1:1)
2. A church LIVING for God (1:2-3)
  - They had a FAITH that WORKED
  - They had a LOVE that LABORED
  - That had a HOPE that ENDURED
3. A church LOVED by God (1:4)
4. A church CHOSEN by God (1:4)

## Looking Upward, Outward and Forward

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

April 8, 2018

Growth Groups Week 1 of 9

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*Growth Groups are the glue that hold our church together. Growth Groups are groups of 6 - 12+ people that meet together during the week to process and apply the message, pray together, care for another and live life together. If you are interested in joining a Growth Group, go to [gracecentralcoast.org](http://gracecentralcoast.org).*

### Caring for One Another

It's been a while since we've been together. Or maybe this is the first time you've jumped into a Growth Group. Whatever the case may be, take time to catch up and connect.

If you're looking for stuff to talk about, maybe share one "Spring cleaning" project you hope to tackle this Spring.

### Digging Into God's Word & the Message Together

1. Here at Grace we're committed to "coming under" God's Word, not "standing over" it. So how did you come under God's Word in the message this week? What spoke to you? How were you challenged by the church of the Thessalonians?
2. Read 1 Thessalonians 1 again together as a group. Paul is writing to the church as a whole. He sees them as a community. He addresses them as one. In contrast, we often think of ourselves as individual Christians who attend church. Do you most often think of the church as a place you attend or a people that you are? Do you see yourself as a part of our church, Grace Central Coast? Why or why not? What would make you feel more connected?

3. Paul reminds the Thessalonians who they are in God. Looking at the text (not the outline!), what things does he tell them? These things are true of us as well. Why are these truths so important for us to be continually reminded of also? Which one is most precious to you today?
4. When we use the term "missional church" what do we mean? Based on this first chapter, how was the Thessalonian Church a missional church? In what ways do you see Grace Central Coast striving to be a "missional church." Do you see yourself as a part of those efforts? In what ways?
5. Some people suggest that the church is for encouraging and equipping Christians, but not for evangelism of non-believers. How does 1 Thessalonians 1 challenge that notion?
6. The Thessalonian church was a "working, waiting" church. How were they working? For what were they waiting? Which do you do better, work or wait? How can you cultivate the one you are weaker at?

### Praying Together

- Pray for Grace Central Coast as we strive to be a missional church.
- Share and pray for one another's needs.

