

CHEERING THE CHOSEN - 1

Contagious Christianity

"Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you're in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ."
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2, 3

"The Kingdom thrives when people are cherished and nurtured with prayer."

The Christian faith has always been characterized by a strong and focused sense of future, with belief in the Second Coming of Jesus as the most distinctive detail. For Christians, it is the most important thing to know and believe about the future. The certainty of Jesus' return enabled the Thessalonians to resist futile sensuality, face martyrdom calmly, and handle tragedy in ways that made their skeptical neighbors take notice.

Welcome

Do you generally make a good first impression? Or is your good side evident only to those who know you for a while?

Word

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

1. Why was Paul particularly thankful to God for the believers at Thessalonica? In what way were these things evidence of their genuine conversion?
2. How obvious is it to you, that you're what you are today, not because of chance, but because of God's choice to put His hand on you for something special?
3. Who has been a "hero" or model for you in terms of faith...hope...love? Share something specific from their life that you want to build into your own.
4. What's the difference between impressing people, and influencing people? Which of these two are you more concerned about in your own life? What are the essential elements of being a person of influence?
5. What can you learn from this passage about being more intentional about "cheering" (as opposed to criticizing) your fellow believers? How easily does this come for you?

Worship

Don't allow the worship segment each week to become routine. Instead, give deliberate thought to ways in which worship can help foster or flow naturally out of your time in the word. Song possibilities to consider: "A Common Love" (705), "Bind Us Together" (704), "Here We Are" (198), "Listen To Our Hearts" (810), "The Great Command" (448).

Works

The Kingdom thrives when people are cherished and nurtured with prayer. Spend time before the Lord this week, asking what He would have you do in response to the study this week.