



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

TWO ESSENTIAL QUALITIES OF AN EFFECTIVE LEADER

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Colossians 1:3-6 "We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;"

II. PRAISE THE WORK OF OTHERS?

1 Thessalonians 2:13-14 "For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews,"

When you apply these principles concerning the Word of God you will inevitably become imitators of Christ. Paul says follow me as I follow Christ. These believers in Thessalonica "mimicked" the example the missionary team had left them. So much so that they were being an exemplar of Christ. This is a prime example of reduplication—biblical discipleship.

1 Peter 2:21 "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,"

The Word of God is not empty; it is not impotent; it is not inert like the words of men. God's Word accomplishes and fulfills complete salvation. It justifies us, transforms us, sanctifies us, and

ultimately it will glorify us. It is not the words of man (in origin) but man is the instrument God uses to communicate His precise authorial intent. The Word of God and His work is supernaturally powered by God.

Philippians 2:13 "for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."

The first thing that made Paul thankful was their reception of the Word. The second cause for Paul's praise was their imitation of other churches.

The highest form of honor is imitation. You pay tribute to someone when you pattern your life after them; whether in the political arena, familial life, or in religious life. In the political arena many follow their teachers or exemplars who set the foundation or political point of view. It is enviable that children mimic their parents—for better or worse. And so it is in the religious realm also as seen in our text. It all begins with one's attitude toward the Word of God. The Thessalonian believers received God's Word and imitated those who brought the Word. It also reflected the churches of Judea.

Paul exhorted the church of Corinth to set an example—

1 Corinthians 11:1, 6 "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ...Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me."

The church at Thessalonica honored the saints by patterning their lives after them. They paid the highest honor by imitation. They had respect for Christ; they wanted to imitate Him. They had respect for the preachers; they wanted to imitate them. They had respect for the established churches; they were willing to imitate them.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 "You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,"

BIBLE STUDIES

MONDAYS @ 12 NOON,
WEDNESDAYS @ 8:30 A.M., ROOM 317 BLATT BUILDING

South Carolina

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Immediately upon salvation, the Spirit of God begins His ongoing work of sanctifying believers into the image of Christ. In doing so, the churches emulated one another.

As an elected official in the South Carolina legislature, who do you model? Who or what you emulate gives credence to who your father is. Need I remind you there are two options.

1 John 3:10 "By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother."

The last characteristic in this passage is how to persevere when wronged?

III. PERSEVERE WHEN WRONGED?

1 Thessalonians 2:14b "For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews,"

How will you handle political persecution from your own party? It will come. I've been around here long enough to see it happen, to see retaliation imposed upon others from within their own party affiliation.

Will you be known for one: 1) who believes the right thing; 2) who follows the right patterns; 3) who stands against the opposition?

Beginning with church persecution in Jerusalem, Saul was a persecutor of the church and witnessed the stoning of Stephen. Then he met Christ on the Damascus Road. Meeting Christ radically transformed his life, his convictions, his vocation, and his mission. The one who was once the persecutor now becomes the persecuted (Acts 9).

The same Spirit, if you're a child of God, who resides in you at this very moment is the same Spirit who empowered the newly found church in Jerusalem to embrace and endure persecution. The church suffered at the hands of their own countrymen and prospered through the process. Will the same be said of you when

difficulties and conflicts arise? If you walk by the Spirit and are obedient to the Word, then you will blossom and flourish, because God is at work growing you spiritually. Maturity is a process. The Thessalonian church was not the first to endure trials, difficulties, and hardships. However, they followed a previous pattern already set by others.

Acts 17:5 "But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the market place, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people."

You may not encounter a mob and thuggery as a legislator like the church or Jason did in Thessalonica, but if so, will you maintain an attitude of endurance?

The pattern for endurance is the example of Christ:

1 Peter 2:21 "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,"

Christ set the ultimate example of maltreatment under persecution. Also the churches in Judea suffered and faithfully endured. This is the biblical model on handling persecution and the pattern worthy of imitation.

HOW TO RESPOND TO SUFFERING

COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD—1 PET 4:19
EXHIBIT PATIENCE DURING—1 COR 4:12
REJOICE IN IT—MATT 5:12; 1 PET 4:13
GLORIFY GOD IN THE MIDST—1 PET 4:16
PRAY FOR DELIVERANCE—PS 7:1; 119:86
PRAY FOR THOSE WHO INFLICT—MATT 5:44
RETURN BLESSING FOR—ROM 12:14
PERSEVERE THROUGH IT—ROM 12:12
NEVER PAY BACK EVIL FOR EVIL—ROM 12:17
NEVER TAKE YOUR OWN REVENGE—ROM 12:19

- I. PERCEIVE THE WORD OF GOD?**
- II. PRAISE THE WORK OF OTHERS?**
- III. PERSEVERE WHEN WRONGED?**