



The Point

1 Thessalonians

A guide to making disciples.

Be slow to speak of your faith until you can show that your faith is more than a doctrinal confession.

The last thing this world needs to see is a testimony that nullifies rather than notarizes our message.

The theological context

The central theme of the Biblical Gospel is to bring a Sabbath Rest to our lives as disciples in the Body of Christ.

Matthew 12:8
"the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath."

The Sabbath is the sign of a Gospel of peace & rest!

Sabbath is the point of the creation narrative. Gen.2:1-3

Sabbath was the Jewish sign of fellowship with God. Ex.31:13

Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath!
Sabbath rest is not a day, so much as a lifestyle.

Hebrews 4:10
"Whoever has entered God's rest has also **rested from his works** as God did from His."

Colossians 2:16-17 (Rom.14:5-6)
"Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon **or a Sabbath.**"

The Gospel is a SPIRITUAL MESSAGE that is to be LIVED out in the power of THE SPIRIT.

Hebrews 4:12
"For the **word of God** is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and **piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit**, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Romans 12
"20 But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will **heap burning coals upon his head.**" 21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**"

Gospels

Jesus' death & Resurrection

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

Timeline of 3 yr. ministry

Jesus' came for the purpose of DYING.

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Space related to Jesus' death and resurrection

Gospels

The Passion & Resurrection

birth, teaching, miracles, deeds of Jesus

Timeline of 3 yr. ministry

The Apostles' teaching is centered on the **MEANING** of what Christ **DID** at the end of his earthly ministry.

Word and Way of the Cross

Epistles

The relative attention given to the Cross and its significance.

The Word of the Cross

leads us to the **Way of the Cross** to show others the **Worth of the Cross**.

Matthew 5

"14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 **Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.**"

1 Thessalonians 1

"1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; 3 constantly bearing in mind your **work of faith** and **labor of love** and **steadfastness of hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, 4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;..."

5 **for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power**

and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know **what kind of men we proved to be** among you for your sake."

Actions speak louder than words.

"faith"
Turning to Christ

"love"
Selfless service to others

"hope"
Perseverance under trial

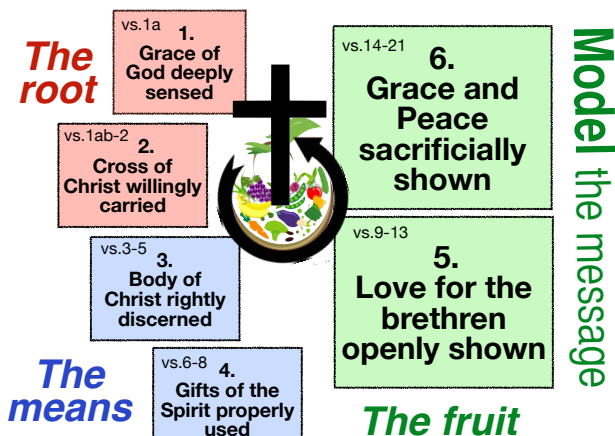
1 Thessalonians 1

"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, 7 so that you became an **example** to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place **your faith toward God has gone forth**, so that we have no need to say anything."

Bringing the spirit of Sabbath to our tribulations is moving from stress to rest.



Romans 12 - The church's mission is to make disciples.



Romans 12

"14 **Bless those who persecute you**; bless and curse not. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 **Be of the same mind** toward one another; **do not be haughty in mind**, but associate with the lowly. **Do not be wise in your own estimation**. 17 **Never pay back evil for evil** to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, **be at peace with all men**.

19 **Never take your own revenge**, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*" says the Lord. 20 "*But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.*" 21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**"

1 Thessalonians illustrates that Paul's Gospel is not just a **WORD** but also a **WAY**.

1 Thessalonians 1

"9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you **turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God**, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who **delivers us from the wrath to come.**"

How do we "SHOW" the Gospel?

1. Changing **how we see & seek "abundant life"**.
2. Showing **peace and patience in suffering.**
3. Agape love - **sacrifice of self for service.**

The idols of this world are:

- addressing symptoms **not root sources.**
- exposed by our **anxiety, anger, addiction.**
- painkillers **that can blind us of the Gospel's light.**



The sacramental power of God's Word is in the Biblical MESSAGE, MODELED in the life of Christ and his disciples.

Hebrews 4:12

"For the **word of God** is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and **piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit**, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Romans 12

"20 But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will **heap burning coals upon his head.** 21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**"

Private Faith (in this life) is

1. USELESS.

James 2

"14 What **use** is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? **Can that faith save him?** 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is **dead**, being by itself."

Private Faith (in this life) is

2. UNSEEN.

James 2

"18 But someone may well say, "You have faith, and I have works; **show me** your faith without the works, and **I will show you** my faith by my works."

19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works **is useless?**"

The Point

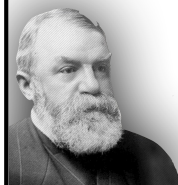
1 Thessalonians

A guide to making disciples.

Be slow to speak of faith until you can show that your faith is more than a doctrinal confession.

Actions speak louder than words.

"A holy life will make the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns, they just shine."



Dwight L. Moody

1 Cor. 13:4-7 Love is

Conduct a personal audit. Grade yourself on your response to each of these issues as they come up this month.

How are we doing?



patient
kind
not jealous
does not brag
is not arrogant
does not act unbecomingly
does not seek its own
is not provoked
does not take into account a wrong suffered
does not rejoice in unrighteousness
rejoices with the truth
bears all things
believes all things
hopes all things
endures all things

a response to:

trials
insults
success of others
success of self
power and authority
freedom
competition
challenging confrontation
injustice
failure of others
gossip and slander
loss
doubts
discouragement
delayed expectations

I Thessalonians

Next week
2:1-20

Optical illusion or illumination

