

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1. (He gives thanks for) The unmistakable signs of spiritual life (2-3)

²We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. ³We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Faith is
- Love is
- Hope is

Faith works.

Love labours.

Hope endures.

2. (He gives thanks for) The unexpected welcome of the gospel message (4-6)

⁴For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you,⁵ because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. ⁶You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

3. (He gives thanks for) The undeniable evidence of repentance (7-10)

⁷ And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.⁸ The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia – your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it,⁹ for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

They turned from idols.

They served God.

They waited for Christ.

Conclusion

A real church is one in which

- There are unmistakable signs of spiritual life as people demonstrate that in terms of their obedient trust, their labouring love and their enduring hope.
- It's one in which there is an unexpected reception of the message as people wholeheartedly and joyfully welcome the gospel even if it causes persecution and hardship
- It's one in which there is undeniable evidence of repentance so much so that not only does the gospel ring out from them but the news of their repentance reverberates even further