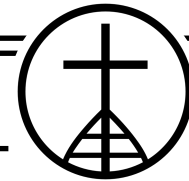


PULPIT CURRICULUM

The Marks of a Good Church

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

January 7, 2024 – Adam Ashoff



Prayer & Praise: For the kickoff of lots of ministries this month: Students & College, Men's & Women's Bible studies, FundaMENTals, Student & Women's retreats, GO Team sign ups!

A Good Church Exists by the Grace of God (v. 1)

Have you ever been asked by a friend or family member about finding a "good church"? How do you answer them? What are some things people might elevate to greater importance in finding a good church than the Bible does?

Paul, Silas, and Timothy are all differing testimonies of God's grace in salvation. No matter our background, why is it vital that we never get over the grace of God in our lives? How does grace correct our vision of what a church is?

For Paul, understanding God as our Father is inseparable from knowing Jesus as Lord. Why must this be the heart of the gospel message and our theology as a true church?

A Good Church Expresses Gratitude to God. (vv. 2-3)

The essence of Christian theology is grace; the essence of Christian ethics is gratitude. How should the connection between God's grace and our gratitude effect our everyday lives?

As you think about work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope, how do those three virtues fit together to help give a us an accurate picture of what saving faith looks like in action?

Mutual Ministry: Is your faith working lately? Is your love laboring? What does that look like on a day to day basis? Has your hope been strong? Are there any weak areas of your faith that you need to ask for prayer?

*Grace is God exercising his infinite power on our behalf, to do for us,
in us and through us what we have no ability to do on our own.*

Paul Tripp