



1 Thessalonians 1

The Message

I, Paul, together here with Silas and Timothy, send greetings to the church at Thessalonica, Christians assembled by God the Father and by the Master, Jesus Christ. God's amazing grace be with you! God's robust peace!

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, before God our Father.** It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special. When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions.

You paid careful attention to the way we lived among you, and determined to live that way yourselves. In imitating us, you imitated the Master. Although great trouble accompanied the Word, you were able to take great joy from the Holy Spirit!—taking the trouble with the joy, the joy with the trouble.

Do you know that all over the provinces of both Macedonia and Achaia believers look up to you? The word has gotten around. Your lives are echoing the Master's Word, not only in the provinces but all over the place. The news of your faith in God is out. We don't even have to say anything anymore—you're the message! People come up and tell us how you received us with open arms, how you deserted the dead idols of your old life so you could embrace and serve God, the true God. They marvel at how expectantly you await the arrival of his Son, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescued us from certain doom.

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and **the encouragement they provide** we might have hope. Rms 15:4



SERMON NOTES

What We Remember

"A good name (literally "character") is to be chosen rather than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold." Pr. 22:1

A LIFE **DEFINED** by GOD

True faith realizes that whatever God is calling you to, is the best use of your time, talents and resources.

I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. Acts 20:24

A LIFE **MOTIVATED** by LOVE

Work done with love has a glory all its own.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? Phil 1:21

What are you currently doing that brings joy to others?

A Life **SUSTAINED** by HOPE

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Rm 12:12

"Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future."

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SACRED JOURNEY

What Is a Spiritual Legacy?

A spiritual legacy is a legacy of faith. Like many people, you probably want to impact your world with your life. And you are impacting your world—even if you don't realize it.

A *spiritual legacy* is all about your relationship with the Lord—the stories of your past and present walk with Jesus, your commitment to the faith in time of abundance and your sacrifice in times trouble. These stories acknowledge the bad times, but combine them with the good that God creates in and through you. It is the Jesus experiences you share and the memories you create that impact people's lives for eternity.

Your spiritual legacy is like a baton that you begin to pass on to the next generation even while you live. Your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors can grab onto this baton and run with it now and long after your portion of the race is finished.

Among other things, your legacy of faith consists of:

- Observations of how you responded to life's difficulties
- How you celebrated, how you worshipped
- How you prayed
- How you made a difference in the lives of others
- How you conquered your bad attitudes and habits
- How you handled disappointments
- What you did with your finances
- How you talked about people
- How you treated your family and others

What will the record of your life journey look like? What are your stories of God in your journey? If those who follow you do not know your journey, how will they have a legacy to grab on to?

How will they know what was treasure and what were toys in your life?

Will they understand what was surface and what was substance in your experiences?

How will they know the God who wants to walk their paths with them? A spiritual legacy should be a clear record of your walk of faith, communicating that living for Jesus and being empowered by his grace is more than enough.

What are the most important things about Jesus that you would like your friends and family to learn from your life? How will that happen?