

“THE CHURCH GOD USES”

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

MAIN IDEA: *The church that God uses is one which looks in four different directions.*

An Outline of I Thessalonians:

I. PAUL’S LOOK AT HIS COMING (1:1-2:16)

A. The Remembrance of His Converts (1:1-10): the picture of a model church

I. THE CHURCH WITH A BACKWARD VIEW (I Thess. 1:1-7)

The backward view results in a memory of the past.

- A. We need to be remembered for our godly character (1:1-4).***
- B. We need to remember when the gospel was preached to us (1:5).***
- C. We need to remember when the gospel was received by us (1:6).***
- D. We need to remember when the gospel changed our lives (1:7).***

II. THE CHURCH WITH AN OUTWARD VIEW (I Thess. 1:8-9a)

The outward view results in a message for the world.

- A. The proclamation of the gospel resulted directly from the changed lives of the believers (1:8-9a).***
- B. The proclamation of the gospel resulted also from the words spoken by the converts (cp. 1:5; Acts 17:1-4).***

III. THE CHURCH WITH A FORWARD VIEW (I Thess. 1:9b)

The forward view results in a ministry to God.

- A. In the past we served idols.***
- B. When we received Christ, we began to serve the living God (cp. Rom. 6:19-22).***

IV. THE CHURCH WITH AN UPWARD VIEW (I Thess. 1:10)

The upward view results in a motivation for the present.

- A. We must await the return of Jesus Christ in the future (1:10).***
- B. The expectation of His coming ought to change us in the present (cp. Tit. 2:11-13; I John 3:2-3).***

What is true of the local church is also true of the individual believer.

- Are you looking *backward*, praising God for what He has done in your life?**
- Are you looking *outward*, seeking to reach the lost with the gospel of Christ?**
- Are you looking *forward*, faithfully serving the living God?**
- Are you looking *upward*, eagerly anticipating His return at any moment?**