**PREPARE THE WAY**

**The Church Working Right**

**October 30, 2022**

1. **Question: How do you really know what a legitimate church looks like?**
2. **Read 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10**We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, 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. You 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. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. 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, 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, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. **(1 Thessalonians 1:2-10)**

**Question:** Why were they called a model church?

1. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
 **(1 Thessalonians 1:3)**
**Question:** What were some of their characteristics that prompted them to be a working church?
2. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate. **(2 Thessalonians 3:7-9)**
**Question:** How comfortable are you to ask people to follow your example as a disciple of Christ?

**Question:** How does Paul’s motivation to work, let you know about his sincerity and love for the Thessalonians?

1. You 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… 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… **(1 Thessalonians 1:6,9)**
**Question:** How would you rate Journey as a welcoming Church?
**Question:** How would you rate yourself in the way that you welcome people at Journey?
**Question:** What could we do better at Journey in welcoming people?
2. 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… **(1 Thessalonians 1:8)
Question:** What do you think Jesus would say about Journey as a whole about witnessing to the community and to the world?
**Question**: How often do you witness, invite or share your faith with people?
3. **Matthew 28:18-20**

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**Question**: How are you personally involved in making disciples?

1. …and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. **(1 Thessalonians 1:10)**

**Question:** What should be our attitude about the 2nd coming of Christ?
**Question:** How often do you think of the return of Christ?
**Question:** Are you and your family ready for the return of Jesus?Why or why not?

1. Discuss the following statement by Pastor David Vaughan “**There’s nothing like the church, when the church is working right!”**
2. **Question: What is your biggest take away from the sermon this week?**