

Pullin' Weeds Plantin' Seeds

TEMPLE LADIES NEWSLETTER

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What is Temple Baptist Church Known For?

Crystal Ratcliff

What is Temple Baptist Church known for?

As you consider that question, let me remind you that we all make up Temple Baptist Church. You. Me. We all have a part in what Temple Baptist Church is known for, and so perhaps the question should get a little more personal.

What are you known for?

I recently studied through I and II Thessalonians and was inspired by the church at Thessalonica. They were known for their “Work of Faith,” “Labour of Love,” and “Patience of Hope.”

Paul said, “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;” (I Thessalonians 1:2-3).

Paul had traveled to Thessalonica on his second missionary journey and

caused quite an uproar with his preaching (see Acts 17). The people of the city described them as “These that have turned the world upside down...” (Acts 17:6). The Gospel message confronts people in their sin—and religious traditions. It causes a strong reaction, and the people of Thessalonica ran Paul and Silas out of town because of their message.

The Thessalonian church was facing such persecution that they mistakenly believed they had missed the rapture and were living in the midst of the Great Tribulation. Paul wrote to the believers in Thessalonica to clear up the confusion regarding the return of Jesus Christ and to encourage them to live holy lives while they waited for that day.

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FRIENDS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

8:20 AM Church Prayer
9:30 AM Combined SS K+
10:30 AM Morning Service
6:00 PM Evening Service

REVIVAL SERVICES

MON-FRI AUG 3-7

7:00 PM Nightly Service

PLAN TO
ATTEND!

our friends
Dean & Susie Herring
Pastor of South Valley Baptist, Kuna, ID



LADIES
retreat

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
PONCA CITY, OK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
SPEAKER: DINA NAILL
DEADLINE: AUG 5



Mark Trotter said this about I and II Thessalonians:

“But it is also clear that, though these books deal with the prophetic events, Paul doesn’t want us to approach the rapture and the Second Coming of Christ as mere doctrines to contemplate or discuss in a Bible Study. They aren’t just truths to tantalize our intellect or imagination—they are biblical realities that affect the way we live! These prophetic events need to be translated into practical spiritual living...we could call these books a how-to manual for living in the last days.”

As I studied, that remained my focus. The Thessalonians were living in the light of Jesus’s return, expecting it at any moment, and it changed them. They became ensamples to all that believed in Macedonia and Achaia as they sounded out the Word of the Lord and spread abroad the Gospel message (I Thessalonians 1:7-8). The same should be true of us!

Let’s take a closer look at their work of faith, labour of love, and patience of hope.

Work of Faith

This work of faith was not working for faith. We do not work for our faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), but our faith should change our behavior. James 2:17 says, “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

After receiving Christ, the Thessalonians turned from idols (I Thessalonians 1:9). It was evidence of their real, genuine faith.

Is there evidence of faith in your life? Has it changed you?

Labour of Love

The Thessalonians turned from their idols and chose to serve the living and true God (I Thessalonians 1:9). This labour of love is intense labor united with trouble and trial. It’s not easy to love the LORD as we should, to serve Him as we should, and to love others as we should. However, the Thessalonians were known for loving one another. I Thessalonians 4:9 says, “But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.”

Take some time to read and consider I Corinthians 13. This is often called the “love chapter” and is used at weddings. Pay particular attention to the first three verses (which are usually skipped over). They basically tell us we can do all the things, we can have all the gifts, we can serve in the church... but without charity, it’s just noise! A “sounding brass, tinkling symbol.” Serving the LORD without charity profits nothing. It’s vain.

Learning to love according to this “love chapter” will help your marriage, but in context the verses are talking about serving in the local church. Love for the LORD should be our motivation for serving, and our love for the LORD allows us to love others as we should.

How is your labour of love? Are you serving the LORD because of your love for Him? Have you allowed Him to teach you how to love others?

Patience of Hope

They had a patience of hope! The Thessalonian church had an eternal perspective. They were waiting for God’s Son, Jesus, to come again from heaven (I Thessalonians 1:10). Hope is a joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation, and they waited patiently for Christ’s return. They waited with steadfastness and endurance. They did not swerve from their deliberate purpose and loyalty of faith despite the sufferings and trials they faced.

Do you have that same patience of hope? Are you looking for Jesus to come again?

So, let me ask you again...

What are you known for? Does your life sound out the Word of God and spread abroad the Gospel? 🌱

