

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10) - 11.14.2021

1. Pastor Paul entitled this sermon, "The Three Ingredients of a Thriving Church" and he based this on 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.
Have you ever made something and gotten an ingredient wrong, or tried to substitute one thing for another?
If so, how did the final product turnout?
Did you notice a difference between the times you followed the recipe with the right ingredients & the time you didn't?
If that's true with food, how much more important is it to get the "ingredients" right when it comes to the Church?
Since the Church is made up of individual members, how have right/wrong ingredients impacted your own life?
2. Consider Acts 17:1-9 as background to better understand Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.
How do you see the Gospel Power at work in this passage?
Where do you see the following three ingredients clearly represented in these two passages?
 1. Faith - work of [faith]
 2. Love - labor of [love]
 3. Hope - steadfastness of [hope]
3. Here's how he broke down each of these components in looking at 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
 1. Faith - work of [faith]
We need the right object for salvation - Christ! (Christ must be the object of faith for all - Jews and Gentiles alike!)
What is the evidence of this? - Live out one's faith & others begin to recognize one's faith in Christ.
 2. Love - labor of [love]
We need to serve the Lord with heart and enthusiasm!
The source of love is only and always God Himself (Romans 5:5)
What is the evidence of this? - God's love is evident in one's life as one touches others with His love!
 3. Hope - steadfastness of [hope]
This is an enduring hope that also leads to endurance!
Hope for one's daily life with Christ - in opposition, in trials and challenges - we remain grounded in Christ!
Hope for one's future - The expectation of the future return of Christ (which we hope in with total confidence)!As you reflect upon these ingredients, are there other key ingredients that you feel are missing, or does that cover it and why?
4. Some questions to consider:
Are these three ingredients present in the church today?
Are these three ingredients present:
in your personal life?
in your family relationships?
in your daily life as you serve the Lord where He has you?