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**“What the Church Should Be” (Part 4)**

**I Thessalonians 1:6-9**

**INTRODUCTION**

* KEY POINT: A godly church is elect, exemplary, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and expectant.
* What People Look for in a Church
* Top Seven Factors That Lead to Joining a Church

**EXPOSITION: What Made the Church Worthy of Emulation? (vs. 3-10)**

1. They were known for working out their faith (vs. 3a).
2. They were known for loving to serve others (vs. 3b).
3. They were known for persevering with hope (vs. 3c).
4. They were known for their election by God (vs. 4).
5. They were known for their reception of the Word (vs. 5).
6. They were known for their disciple-making (vs. 6a, 7).
7. They were known for their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 6b).

* I Thessalonians 2:13; Matthew 10:21-23; John 15:18-19; 16:33; Romans 8:17; II Corinthians 1:5; Philippians 3:10; I Peter 2:10; 4:12-13
* James 1:2-4

1. **They were known for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 6c).**

* Matthew 5:11-12; Romans 5:3-5; Acts 13:48-52; Hebrews 10:34; Philippians 4:4

1. **They were known for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 8-9).**

**CONCLUSION**

**TAKE IT A STEP FURTHER**

1. Why do some Christians regret suffering? Why aren’t we eager to embrace suffering if God promises to use it for good?
2. How can suffering be a fruitful ministry to a church’s community?
3. Book Recommendation: *What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?* by Richard Mayhue