

An aerial photograph of a busy crosswalk with white stripes on a dark asphalt surface. Several pedestrians are walking across the crosswalk, and their long shadows are cast across the stripes. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

“What the Church Should Be” (Part 2)

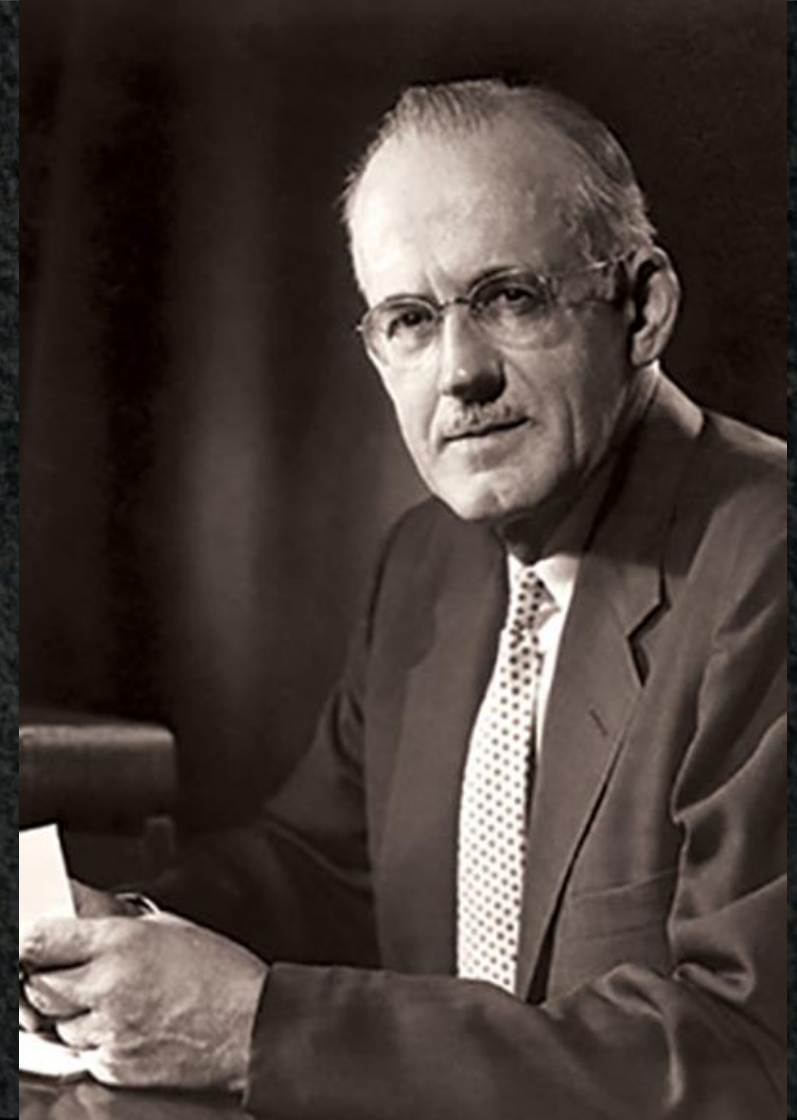
I THESSALONIANS 1:3-4

**KEY POINT: A godly church is
elect, exemplary, enthusiastic,
and expectant.**

A. Working Out Their Faith (vs. 3a)

**What Made the Church Worthy of
Emulation?**

“The man that believes
will obey; failure to obey is
convincing proof that
there is not true
faith present.”



***A.W. Tozer, Man: The
Dwelling Place of God***

*14 What good is it, my brothers,
if someone says he has faith but does not have
works? Can that faith save him?*

*15 If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and
lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to
them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled,"
without giving them the things needed for the
body, what good is that? 17 So also faith by itself,
if it does not have works, is dead.*

James 2:14-17

“Faith, therefore, does not originate in works, neither do works create faith, but faith must spring up and flow from the blood and wounds and death of Christ. If you see in these that God is so kindly disposed toward you that he even gives his own Son for you, then your heart in turn must grow sweet and disposed toward God.”



Martin Luther

*For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.*

Ephesians 2:10

*¹² Therefore, my beloved,
as you have always obeyed, so now,
not only as in my presence but much more in my
absence, work out your own salvation with fear
and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you,
both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

Philippians 2:12-13

*By this we know that we love the children of God,
when we love God and obey his commandments.*

I John 5:2

A. Working Out Their Faith (vs. 3a)

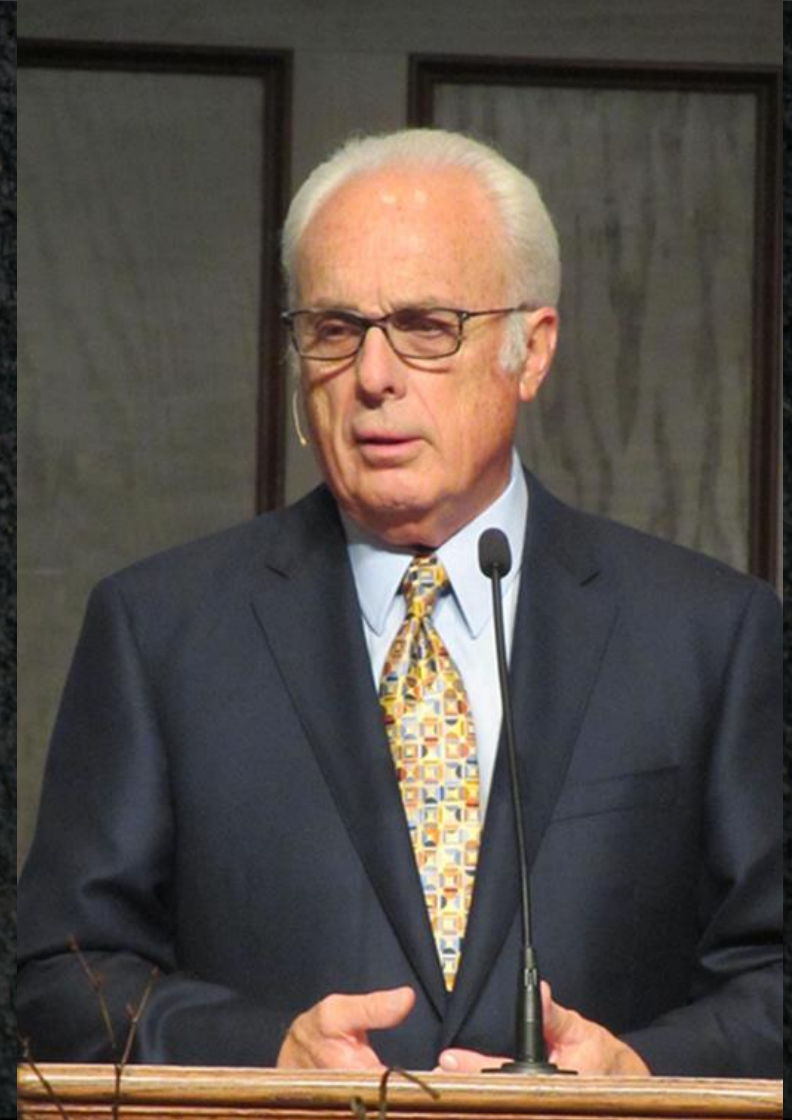
B. Loving to Serve Others (vs. 3b)

**What Made the Church Worthy of
Emulation?**

- More than work
- “toil that results in weariness, fatigue, or extraordinary effort”
- More than casual Christian activity, but suggests getting tired in service

The Word “*Labor*”

“The world cannot comprehend the great love that Christ gives because it cannot understand Christ. Worldly love is based on attraction and therefore lasts only as long as the attraction. Christ’s love is based on His own nature and therefore lasts forever. Worldly love lasts until it is offended or rebuffed.”



John MacArthur,
Ephesians

*34 A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another: just as I have loved
you, you also are to love one another.
35 By this all people will know that you are my
disciples, if you have love for one another.*

John 13:34-35

But if anyone loves God, he is known by God.

I Corinthians 8:3

*If anyone has no love for the Lord,
let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!*

I Corinthians 16:22

*For you were called to freedom, brothers.
Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity
for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

Galatians 5:13

⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷ For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Philemon 5-7

⁹ Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

I John 2:9-11

- A. Working Out Their Faith (vs. 3a)
- B. Loving to Serve Others (vs. 3b)
- C. Persevering with Hope (vs. 3c)

**What Made the Church Worthy of
Emulation?**

- Means “endurance” or “patience”
- More than being optimistic, but living with complete certainty

The Word “*Steadfastness*”

*³ For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God,
and seeking to establish their own,
they did not submit to God's righteousness.
⁴ For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness
to everyone who believes. ⁵ For Moses writes
about the righteousness that is based on the law,
that the person who does the commandments
shall live by them.*

Romans 5:3-5

*24 For in this hope we were saved.
Now hope that is seen is not hope.
For who hopes for what he sees?
25 But if we hope for what we do not see,
we wait for it with patience.*

Romans 8:24-25

*For whatever was written in former days was
written for our instruction,
that through endurance and through the
encouragement of the Scriptures we might
have hope.*

Romans 15:4

*² Count it all joy, my brothers,
when you meet trials of various kinds,
³ for you know that the testing of your faith
produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness
have its full effect, that you may be perfect and
complete, lacking in nothing.*

James 1:2-4

- A. Working Out Their Faith (vs. 3a)
- B. Loving to Serve Others (vs. 3b)
- C. Persevering with Hope (vs. 3c)
- D. Electing by God (vs. 4)

**What Made the Church Worthy of
Emulation?**

- Means “to choose out of” or “to pick from many possibilities”
- Means you select someone and not someone else
- It is God making a choice to save someone (giving what they don’t deserve) and not choosing someone else (so they will get what they do deserve).

The Word “*Chosen*”

11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— 12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

Romans 9:11-13

*⁵ So too at the present time there is a remnant,
chosen by grace.*

*⁷ What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was
seeking. The elect obtained it,
but the rest were hardened,*

Romans 11:5, 7

As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.

Romans 11:28

*Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to
confirm your calling and election,
for if you practice these qualities
you will never fall.*

II Peter 1:10

1. Election is from eternity past.
2. Because God elects, that does not make Him an arbitrary tyrant.
3. Because God elects, salvation begins with Him.

A Primer on the Doctrine of Election

*You did not choose me,
but I chose you and appointed you that you
should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should
abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my
name, he may give it to you.*

John 15:16

⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”...

Acts 13:46-48

*...⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this,
they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the
Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal
life believed.*

Acts 13:46-48

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Romans 8:29-30

*⁴ even as he chose us in him before the
foundation of the world, that we should be holy
and blameless before him.
In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself
as sons through Jesus Christ,
according to the purpose of his will,*

Ephesians 1:4-5

*In him we have obtained an inheritance,
having been predestined according to the
purpose of him who works all things according to
the counsel of his will,*

Ephesians 1:11

*But we ought always to give thanks to God for
you, brothers beloved by the Lord,
because God chose you as the firstfruits to be
saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and
belief in the truth.*

II Thessalonians 2:13

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4. Because God elects, evangelism is not a wasted activity.
5. Election is an act of God's love.

A Primer on the Doctrine of Election

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3. Because God elects, salvation begins with Him.
4. Because God elects, evangelism is not a wasted activity.
5. Election is an act of God's love.
6. Election does not cancel out our meaningful choices.

A Primer on the Doctrine of Election

“There will be no doubt
about His having chosen
you, when you have
chosen him.”



**Charles Spurgeon,
*Morning and Evening***

*¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins
² in which you once walked, following the course of
this world, following the prince of the power of the
air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of
disobedience—³ among whom we all once lived in
the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires
of the body and the mind, and were by nature
children of wrath, like the rest of mankind...*

Ephesians 2:1-5

*...⁴ But God, being rich in mercy,
because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵
even when we were dead in our trespasses, made
us alive together with Christ—
by grace you have been saved—*

Ephesians 2:1-5

He wills (John 1:12-13)

Draws (John 6:44)

Grants (John 6:65)

Calls (I Peter 2:9)

Appoints (Acts 13:48)

Predestines (Romans 8:29)

Prepares (Romans 9:23)

Causes (I Corinthians 1:30)

Purposes (Ephesians 1:11)

Delivers (Colossians 1:13)

Saved (II Timothy 1:9)

Makes Us Alive (Ephesians 2:5)

Justifies (Romans 8:30)

Sanctifies (I Thess. 5:23)

Glorifies (Romans 8:3)

One Final Word on Election