1 Thessalonians

A Church Worth Imitating
The Nature of Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 1
Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy: To the church of
the Thessalonians in God the Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to you and peace. We
always thank God for all of you, remembering
you constantly in our prayers. We recall, in the
presence of our God and Father, your work of
faith, labour of love, and endurance of hope in
our Lord Jesus Christ, knowing your election,
brothers loved by God. For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with much assurance. You know what kind of men we were among you for your benefit, and you became imitators of us and of the Lord when, in spite of severe persecution, you welcomed the message with the joy from the Holy Spirit.
As a result, you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. For the Lord’s message rang out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place that your faith in God has gone out, so we don’t need to say anything. For they themselves report about us what kind of reception we had from you: how you turned to God from idols.
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.
The Nature of Thanksgiving

1 Thessalonians 1
The Subject of Thanksgiving: the God who works through people

Thanks to God for His plan

Thanks to God for His presence (v.3)

Thanks to God for His people (v.3)

1. Their work of faith
2. Their labor of love
3. Their Endurance of hope
The Chronology of Thanksgiving: “We recall”

Sometimes our recall is not based upon long-term memory

Sometimes our recall is not based upon the purpose of events
The Source of Thanksgiving: “Our Gospel”

It comes in word (v.5)

It comes in power (v.5)

It comes as an example (v.7)
The Joy of Thanksgiving: The Victory of God’s people

People transformed—“you became an example” (v.7)

The message rang out (v.8)

The power of a reformed reputation (v.8-10)
What About You?

How good is your recall?

Could Paul boast in you?