# 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3a

# A Church Worthy of Praise

Word of the Day: Praise and Prayer

#### The Church

#### Acts 17:1-10, Hebrews 4:12, Romans 10:17

- In Acts 16 Paul had a vision to go to Macedonia where Thessalonica is located.
- To Reason means that Paul would answer and ask questions.
- Proclaim means Paul simply told the message of Jesus Christ urging others to believe in Him.

## The City

- The city, although full of religious people and activity was spiritually dark.
- Fortune telling and astrology were important parts of these pagan religions as people sought answers to the questions of love, success, business, and health.
- A church that is worthy of praise is not a church that receives praises for itself but exemplifies the attributes of God and is praised for honoring the father.

# 1. A Church Worthy of Praise has People Praying for it.

# 1 Corinthians 1:4, Psalm 88:1-2, 1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:13-14, Ephesians 5:20

- Church (ekklesia) or assembly is related to (ek kaleo) which means called out ones.
- The people that belong to a Church are in the world but not of it.
  (John 17:15)
- Assembling was important to the early church for encouragement and assemblies were common among other groups who met together with similar beliefs.
- To be in Christ meant that they had their existence in God alone and His finished work.
- Christ was the Greek term for Messiah or anointed one and the fulfillment of Gods plan for redemption of mankind.
- Grace and Peace are the earliest vocabulary of the early church.
- Grace was God's underserved favor shown to sinners
- When is the last time you thanked God not just for your salvation but also the salvation of others?
- · "For every one of You" How often do you lift up people by name?
- The idea is hours of prayer for Them (2 Corinthians 11:28)
- Mark 1:35 Jesus rose early in the morning and in Matthew 14:23
  He prayed late into the night.
- Luke 18:1-8 encourages us to not give up praying.
- When we pray, we should pray for people constantly or without ceasing. (Romans 1:9)
- Prayer: is a Readiness to place oneself in the presence of God.

### Closing

To be a church that is worthy of praise we need to be people of prayer that are praising God for the work He has done as well as by lifting individuals by name.

#### **Devotions**

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

- The church of Thessalonica faced many challenges. What are some challenges we face as a church in America?
- 2. What does it mean to be "In Christ" (See Colossians 3:1-4)
- 3. what does the word Grace mean?
- 4. Why is peace with God more important than peace in the world?
- 5. Why is Faith, Love and Hope so important to a Christian?
- 6. What is prayer?
- 7. Why is it important to be praying for the church?

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