

Series: A Model Church

Title: A Strong Conversion Testimony

Text: (1 Thes 1:5-10)

The Model Church Has ...

B. A Strong Conversion: 1:5-10

The Aim of this lesson: We are to bear a strong testimony of being saved.

To bear a strong testimony of a true Conversion

Theme Verse (1 Thes 1:6) *And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:*

A Model Church should show forth a Clear Testimony of Conversion to Jesus Christ from the World.

Its God's Will that every member of God's church be active in the Ministry.

Frontline vs. Rear Eschaton Ministries.
People had to work together.
Camaraderie was build quickly.

Rear: Griping is a way of life.
They complain about everything.

A Testimony of a Strong Conversion was ...

1. They had ministers that preach the gospel: Vs 5

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

Paul went to Thessalonica to Preach the Gospel & Minister to the People

A Testimony of a Strong Conversion was ...

A. Paul did not preach mere words or rely on his own ability to influence people.

“For our gospel came not unto you in word only,”
Paul knew that God would honor his word only, not man's (i.e. Paul's)

The Gospel is not dependent upon Paul's eloquence.
(1 Cor 2:1-12) *And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

The Gospel is not dependent upon your eloquence either.

Use the Bible! God promised it would not return void (IS 55:8-11)

Bible Memory, is like putting bullets in a gun.
What verses have you memorized?

Typically we memorize verses that address the crisis we are in at the moment.

When in a Crisis, Look up verses on the topic & Memorize them.

Memorize the Roman's Road Gospel Presentation. Read daily, and pick a verse to memorize/meditate on.

A Testimony of a Strong Conversion was ...

B. Paul Preached in the power of the Holy Spirit.

“For our gospel ..., but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance;”

Preaching in the power and energy of God Himself.
Right with God.
Relying on God to guide you.
Resting in God to do the Work as He sees fit.

The Gospel is not just an idea or mere words.

The Gospel is the power of God at work; storing, convicting, energizing. (Rom 1:16)

We must be filled & submitted to the power of God. (John 16:8-11)

We must be controlled by the Holy Spirit so as to become an instrument in the hand of God.

(Acts 1:8) *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, ...*

A Testimony of a Strong Conversion was ...

C. Paul Preached in much Assurance.

How can We have Assurance?

Not Based upon personal Feelings, but on ...

The Word of God: (1 Jn 5:11-12) The Record...

(John 5:24) Passed from Death to life!

(John 6:37) No Wise cast me out!

(Rom 10:13) Shall be Saved!

The Person of God: (Titus 1:2) God cannot lie.

The Presence of God: (Rom 5:5)

(Rom 8:16) The Spirit bears witness with out spirit...

ARE YOU FULLY Persuaded? (Rom 4:21)

(Rom 14:14) Decisions between you & the Lord.

(2 Tim 1:12) Key Words are “Know” & “Persuaded”

Jesus came to mankind to bear our sin, & Rise again to defeat Sin, Death, & Hell.

A Testimony of a Strong Conversion was ...

D. Paul lived what he preached.

Confidence comes from Obedience.

When we know that we are pleasing God, we will know His presence & Power will be upon us.

Obedience is the secret to Assurance, & The secret of bearing fruit for the Lord.

1. The World has yet to see what God would do with a man that would completely obey Him.

Obeys God by living a pure & clean life.

Obeys God by Obeys by Praying & Studying God's word every day.

Obeys God by witnessing & sharing God's Word every day.

(Luke 9:23) And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

2. The Thessalonians had a preacher who would preach the Gospel as it should be preached.

They had a minister that was totally surrounded to Christ.

He lived and preached Christ, and Christ alone.

A Testimony of a Strong Conversion was ...

2. They received the word: The gospel, despite opposition: Vs 6

And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

(Acts 17:4-10) an example of Persecution.

(Matt 10:28) And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

The Holy Spirit rewarded the believers with Joy, & Assurance

(1 Pet 4:8) Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

The believers became followers of Paul and Christ.

They imitate who they follow.

(1 Cor 11:1) Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Who are you Following?

Who is Following You?

Illus: Explain the Print, Copy, Fax,

Being the best original makes the best Copies!

2 Lessons in Verse 6

A. Nothing should keep a person from receiving the Word of the Gospel.

B. Believers, preachers, ministers alike, must guard their lives & make sure they are living diligently for Christ, because others are watching.

(Col 2:6) As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

What fears do you struggle with when sharing the Gospel with the lost.

How can you overcome these fears.

Have you ever been persecuted for your faith?

How did you respond?

What would you do differently the next time?

Why is it so important to live for Christ?

Are you satisfied with your current testimony?

Could you do more for Christ?

If someone acted just like you, would it be pleasing unto the Lord?

Do you know why it would be? or wouldn't be?

Are you willing to correct the things necessary so that someone following you could see Christ in you?

A Testimony of a Strong Conversion was ...

3. They became examples to other believers: Vs 7-8

This young church was so committed to the Lord that their testimony spread all over the world.

The Romans Conquered Greece, then split it up into provinces.

Their testimony had spread beyond the borders of Greece.

Thessalonica was a major trade center.

The gospel could spread all through out the known world.

We need to get to the task of living for Christ & being a testimony for Christ.

(Acts 4:20) *For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*

By definition: The Church should a place that the lost want to be because of the reality of God.

(Zech 8:23) *Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.*

Do you ever experience feelings of failure in your testimony & witness for Christ?

How you can you guard against compromising your witness & example?

What is the relationship between what you say and what you do? - ***Are they consistent?***

Do you think the church's ministry meets the needs of the unchurched and the lost in Kingstowne?

What kinds of changes need to happen to reach the lost & unchurched in our community?

A Testimony of a Strong Conversion was ...

4. The Believers had turned to God from Idols. "To God" - "From Idols" (Vs 9)

They chose first to turn to God, then with the help of God they were able to turn from Idols.

(Acts 2:38) *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

What is an Idol?

Every man has an idea of what God is like.

Some Men shape their idea into wood, metal, stone.

Others hold the images in their mind, picturing God this way or that.

Both are just as much an idol.

Idols: the Image of God created by the mind of man
God is the living and true God.

An Image is the lifeless depiction of God according to the false notions of man. (Rom 1:21-23)

A Testimony of a Strong Conversion was ...

5. The Believers expected the Promise of Christ's Return: (Vs 10)

Every Chapter's emphasis on Christ's Return:

(1 Thes 1:10) (2:19) (3:13) (4:13-18) (5:23)

Christians were taught to expect Christ's Imminent return w/o expecting any preliminary prophetic events.

The rewards of the soul winning will be made evident at Christ's 2 Coming.

(1 Thes 2:19) *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?*

The change into glorious resurrection bodies of perfection will occur at the 1st phase of Christ's second coming.

(1 Thes 3:13) *To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.*

The Resurrection/Ascension of the Christian dead at Christ's coming precede the Great Tribulation.

Paul Expected Christ's return in his lifetime.

(1 Thes 4:17) *Then we which are alive & remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: & so shall we ever be with the Lord*

This Church Will Not Go through the Great Tribulation

(1 Thes 1:10) *And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

The human spirit, soul, & body will be transformed at Christ's coming. (1 Thes 5:23)

Note the Completeness of our Resurrection.

It was God's Son was returning to earth.
They believed they would live with God forever.
The word "Wait" was in the present tense.
They expected him to return at any moment.

(Matt 24:44) *Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

Because of the Resurrection of Christ, God had proved He was the God of All Power.

God proved that He had the power to raise the Dead.
Some to Eternal Life and some to Eternal Judgement.

(John 5:28-29) *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

(1 Cor 4:5) *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

At the Judgement Seat of Christ, every Christian will have some praise of God.

Not all will get all they could have gotten, but all will receive something.

Believers turned to God to escape the Wrath of God

There is a day of wrath that is coming.
That is the news of the Gospel, that we can be rescued (John 3:18) *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

(1 Thes 5:9) *For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Jesus wants all to be saved.*

The church is not going through the Tribulation.

Have you turned to God from Idols?

Are you Assured of your Salvation?

What Assurance does a believer have that he will live forever with Christ?

Does Our life reflect a Strong Conversion?

As we look to the example of the church at Thess at their strong conversion. Who is looking to you?