

**SCC Small Group Discussion**  
**Starting Point – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**  
Derived from a sermon on May 26, 2024 by Dr. Jeff Chandler

**Getting Started:**

Are you especially thankful for anyone in your life right now? What specifically are you thankful for?

Paul talked about the Thessalonians being a model for others to follow. Who is a model or example that you look up to and try to copy in some aspect of your life?

**Searching the Scriptures:**

A. Have you ever prayed for a person (or group of people) you know had started off in their faith in Jesus, but you weren't sure how they had progressed? Did you have the chance to hear about it later? How did it affect you?

B. In verse 3, Paul reminded the believers of the things that keep them secure in their beliefs:

Their faith – produces their good works

Their love – prompts their labor

Their hope – inspires their endurance

How have these attributes given you assurance in your own life?

C. Based on verse 4, how did Paul know that these believers were chosen?

D. What role did the Holy Spirit play in the Thessalonians' faith and enabling them to overcome the pressures they were under?

E. Based on what we've read so far, do you think the Thessalonian church understood its purpose for existence? What do you think that was?

F. Do any modern day examples of inspirational churches come to your mind? What attributes do they have?

G. What would be some parallels for us today of turning away from the "powers" (or idols) of this world to serve the one true God?

**Application of Scripture:**

A. How can our own church be a model in our community? What kind of attitudes and actions could cause the "word of the Lord to ring out" everywhere?

B. How has the Holy Spirit brought you joy in the midst of suffering or opposition?