1Thess #4

Be imitators of the WORD!

Open back up today in our study of 1Thessalonians chapter one.

One quick announcement - I am looking into this new platform called LOCALS.COM – it is a type of membership media platform. So, it would have a small monthly fee which I can probably low - at 5 or 10 dollars a month.

I don’t like the idea of monthly membership but it is a nice back up platform which also takes donations through credit card and debt cards, the plus side is that it is available on APPS for google, apple and other cell phones.

It appears pretty seamless for me to upload and have a community on that platform.

The low monthly cost I would have to charge, would be to give the company their payment or percentage for setting up and using their platform and payment processing apparatus.

Any ideas, comments and suggestions are always welcome.

I ask my serious members to look at the platform and get back to me in the next few weeks.

It could be a new and stable environment for the new year.

Just as a back-up or another option to Facebook, You Tube and Rumble.

We are going to read right through verse 7 and get into a new set of principles today;

1Th 1:1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

God’s grace always comes before peace and stability.

[1Th 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/1/2/s_1112002) We always give thanks to God for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers;

1Th 1:3 constantly keeping in mind your work of faith and labor of love and perseverance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

This is written in a present tense and the Apostle Paul is letting this new congregation know they are consistently on his mind and in his prayers.

Also notice the three Christian values that keep us strong in the CA – faith, love and hope are mentioned.

You can also note the fact that whoever Paul was travelling with would join in prayer for all congregations and churches developing across the land.

There is power in prayer when you get a small group of serious Bels to pray in unity.

[1Th 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/1/4/s_1112004) knowing, brothers *and sisters,* beloved by God, *His* choice of you;

[1Th 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/1/5/s_1112005) for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sakes.

We looked at the two power options the Apostles Paul mentions here.

/[1Th 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/1/6/s_1112006) **You also became imitators of us and of the Lord**, having received the word during great affliction with the joy of the Holy Spirit,\

The great affliction is related to the two issues that occurred at the formation of this church – first was opposition.

This is a predominantly Greek region and other then people of Greek culture you had Romans, certainly military men from the Roman empire. Teaching Christianity there was a challenge.

In fact, the Apostle Paul was chased out of the city of Thessalonica after he established this congregation, he wasn’t very popular there!

Second, was the infiltration of secular teachers and false doctrine.

[1Th 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/1/7/s_1112007) so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

/The first principle we should note, is your calling or ministry at any given moment could be an uphill battle or even under attack once it is established. Jesus and the Apostles along with early church leadership all faced adversity, attacks and struggles. To be imitators is a call to accept the battle within the cosmic system.\

The reality for Christians is that at any given moment, your calling or ministry you are currently involved in will face an attack or a challenge. Many Christians immediately throw up their hands and say - *that’s it!* *God must not want me to go forward in this endeavor*.

Can you image if the Apostles or TLJC had that attitude every time adversity was in their path?

There would be in no church – Christianity would have faded into history.

/The rule of thumb for adversity or challenges in any ministry is that the presence of God is still strong and pressing Bels forward. If BD is present and the Bels involved are still acquiring knowledge and power from their journey then they are to stay the course. If truth and spiritual power is lacking (especially from leadership) then it becomes time to assess the situation.\

You never simply cut and run because times get a little tough.

Never forget, we are called into spiritual warfare. What type of soldier runs when bullets first start flying in battle? I would venture a guess, the word - coward comes to mind, at least it does for me.

/1Thes 1:6 You also **became imitators** of us and of the Lord, having **received the word**

*Ginomai,* (became) - the aorist, passive, indictive*,* at a certain point they received the truth. They willingly accepted BD.\

The aorist tense is pointing to a past event, the passive voice shows a willingness.

GIN-OH-MY - became, is highlighting a point of time when they began to truly understanding the WORD. The indictive mood is a matter-of-fact statement.

They became imitators – the Greek word is *mimētēs* (MIM-A-TASE) it is a root of the word mimic we use in the English language today.

The Christian illusion is that they imitate apostles or TLJC and it really means to imitate the WORD. This is where people get confused.

/God has no desire for you to completely change who you are – HE created you unique and wants to trim away the OSN a little at a time so you can be who HE created you to be! Imitating people gets us in trouble, imitating the WORD brings out who we truly were created to be.\

Every Bible student becomes like their teacher - is a misconception on several levels. First is, God created us with our own unique and quirky personalities and idiosyncrasies, HE has no desire that you become someone else.

Second is the emphasis is on the WORD, the mind of Christ.

Therefore, that is your roadmap, that is your real teacher not some man or denomination.

Where the real you eventually will come into fruition is a journey with the WORD and allowing that to change you - a pastor-teacher is a mouthpiece and interpreter of the word.

 REPEAT

Yet it is imperative you have the right pastor-teacher, because if you are digesting fluff and emotional nonsense and lies - that is who you will become.

/1Thes 1:6 - **having received the word during great affliction** (*thlipsis*)with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

Tribulation and pressure. A term used for what happens to grapes as you press them into wine.\

THE-LEAP-SIS – the original language uses a word for tribulation. It points to great pressure or distress.

The reality was a congregation that was molded under adversity, pressure and against the popular belief of the day.

This was a true minority in Thessalonica. A group of Christians who went completely against the grain of a society who were infatuated with false gods.

Perhaps many of you listening to my voice are going against the grain of a popular belief within your circle of family and friends.

That may be a part of your spiritual battle in this temporal life – it may be your ministry to stand fast and become a beacon of truth and light for others after all the adversity and attacks subside.

 REPEAT

Jump over to Philippians chapter 3 RF.

Think about those of us who stood against the vaccination protocol.

Now as the months roll by, we are finding out more negative and evil aspects about big pharma and these vaccines.

You will soon be vindicated - but a year ago you were attacked and ridiculed.

Who told you standing in truth is a walk in the park…not your Bible!

We are told to be imitators of the WORD not imitators of someone else’s personality!

/1Cor 11:1 **Be imitators of me**, just as I also am of Christ. 2 Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and **hold firmly to the traditions**, just as I handed them down to you.

The real emphasis is upon what the Apostle Paul taught them, not his personality.\

You are never called to imitate anyone but who GOD made you to be within your new nature.

In Philippians chapter 3 the Apostle Paul is proclaiming his own walk with God.

He is telling them, the resurrected life we have in the temporal is attainable at some level but he didn’t have it all figured out yet.

The genius of the Apostle Paul with all his training and education as a Pharisee and now his Christian wisdom given by Christ - he still didn’t have a full grasp of every aspect of what the mind of Christ reveals to mankind.

 REPEAT

Phl 3:12 Not that I have already grasped *it all* or have already become perfect, but I press on if I may also take hold of that for which I was even taken hold of by Christ Jesus.

*I press on* – is the present, active indictive, (DEE-OAK-O) which points to consistency. It was actually a military term for heated pursuit of your enemy.

He is teaching them this is the lifestyle; we keep on pressing forward.

The Apostle Paul is advancing and marching toward a goal - this is the journey he is on.

/[Phl 3:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/3/13/s_1106013) Brothers *and sisters,* I do not regard myself as having taken hold of *it yet;* **but one thing** *I do:* **forgetting what *lies* behind** and **reaching forward** to what *lies* ahead,

He is actually aware of his level of maturity or presence in the plan of God. The one thing he does not dwell in is past failure and sin.\

His main focus is on what lies ahead.

Nothing can hinder your current walk with God, more than your past failures.

It keeps you trapped in guilt, shame and doubt.

 REPEAT

This is why Christians need to forgive and move on – bringing up the failures and sins of others is like assisting Satan in attacking the RF.

It also screams out loud that the cross wasn’t sufficient to forgive sins.

[Phl 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/3/14/s_1106014) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Again, this is a present tense – it is a call to keep on doing this – keep on having this attitude.

/[Phl 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/3/15/s_1106015) Therefore, **all who are mature, let’s have this attitude**; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that to you as well;

God the HS will convict you as you study your Bible. God the HS will convict you as you step outside of the plan of GOD.\

We need to remain centered in the plan of God.

The Apostle Paul knew whoever was gaining spiritual ground becoming mature would be able to stay strong and stay the course.

[Phl 3:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/3/16/s_1106016) however, let’s keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.

This is set in almost a command format – the Apostle Paul is speaking as a military leader to his troops.

/[Phl 3:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/3/17/s_1106017) Brothers *and sisters,* **join in following my example** (*symmimētēs*), and **observe those** who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

The two root words mean to follow alongside another, accompany in the same fashion.\

SUE-ME-MAY-TAS, made up of two root words that speak of walking along side or on the same pathway.

When you follow along the same pathway as someone else you both are walking in the same direction.

Both having the same final destination, yet both walk in whatever fashion their body allows them.

Notice the word pattern – a Greek noun, *typos* (TOO-POS) meaning a very specific type. A certain mannerism or style, a close copy or exact imitation.

/[Phl 3:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/3/18/s_1106018) **For many walk, of whom I often told you**, and now tell you even as I weep, *that they are* the **enemies of the cross of Christ,**

These are Bels! Called enemies of Christ, because that which they believe or live in is opposed to BD.\

That is a serious indictment upon fellow Bels. The damage these Bels can do is as bad and probably even worse than an Unbel who attacks truth.

A Bel preaching false doctrine and living a lifestyle opposed to BD is probably more damaging and influential then an Unbel speaking against Christianity.

[Phl 3:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/3/19/s_1106019) whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who have their minds on earthly things.

They are driven by their emotions.

/[Phl 3:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/3/20/s_1106020) For **our citizenship** (*politeuma*)**is in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

It is a royal title of a superior community. That which is above any form of human government or society.\

POLA-TUM-AH, points the Bel to his Royal Family membership, his ambassadorship which is above any human realm.

It speaks to aristocracy.

What we think of kings and queens in the earthly realm, is who we are because of our union with Christ.

That is what we need to keep in or frontal lobe… right in our frontal vision – who we are in Christ and where we are going.

[Phl 3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/3/21/s_1106021) who will transform the body of our lowly condition into conformity with His glorious body, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Meaning at some future point we will be in heavenly bodies – the angelic conflict will be resolved and all questions, doubt and problems will cease under the power and authority of God.

/Learn to become imitators of the word, let BD be your guide. The path you walk can be unique because of who God made you to be, but the ultimate pathway and goal remains the same for all Bels. You can be the person God created you to be but you can not recreate the core doctrines and protocols GOD has placed in HIS word.\

Without a working knowledge of God’s word, you will never grow into the person God called you to be.

In fact, most Bels think they can interpret the Bible several different ways and it will all still turn out the same.

That is a satanic lie to keep Bels distracted and useless in spiritual warfare.