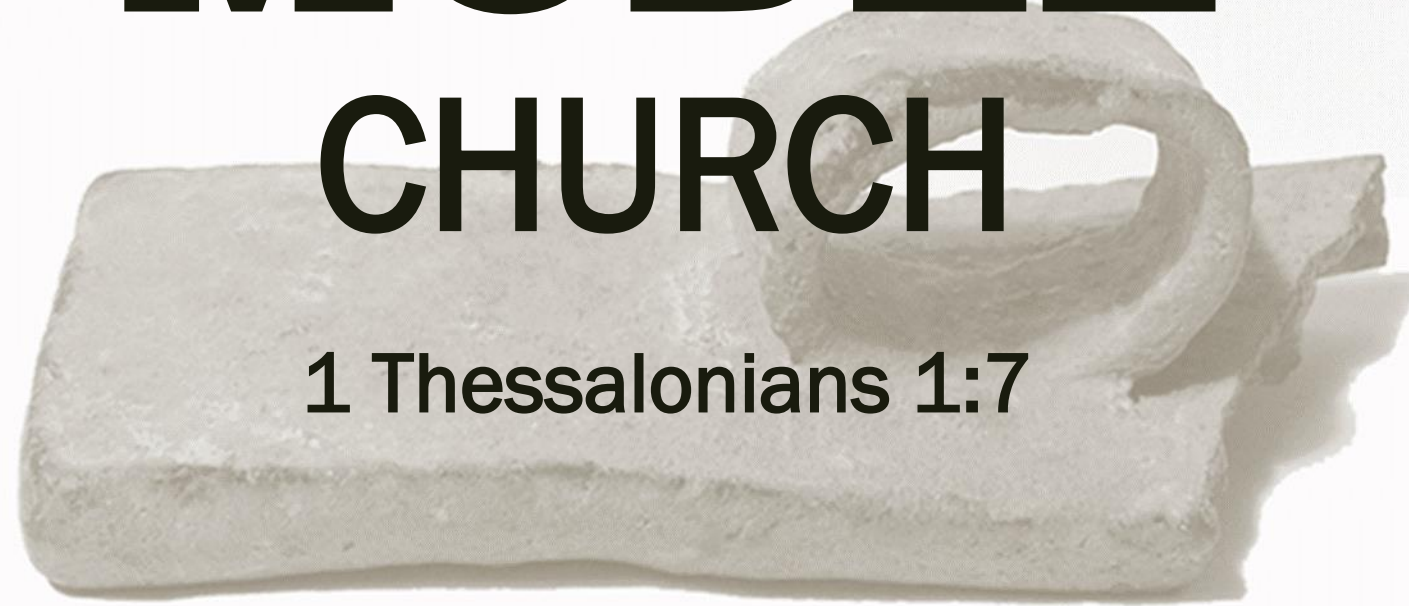




A
MODEL
CHURCH



1 Thessalonians 1:7

THEY WERE **A WORKING CHURCH (1:3)**

- In Christ, *“faith working through love”* means something - (Gal. 5:6)
 - We demonstrate our faith through works of love (James 2:14-17)
 - We demonstrate our love through works of faith (1 John 3:17-18)
- **THEY WERE SPREADING THE GOSPEL (1:8)**
- WHAT? *“the word of the Lord”*
 - *“which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit”* (1 Cor. 2:13)
- HOW? Loud and clear
 - *“I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink*

THEY WERE **A CHANGED CHURCH (1:9)**

- They really “received” the word and actually changed (Col. 3:8-14)
 - They became servants
 - They became like their Master (Mt. 20:28)
- **THEY WERE RECEPTIVE TO TEACHING (2:13)**
- They humbly received the word (James 1:21-25)
 - They removed obstacles in their hearts and lives (21)
 - They received the word by implanting it in their heart (21)
 - They reproduced what they heard by doing (22)
- They knew the blessing is not in the hearing, but the doing (23-25)
- They didn't encounter scriptures about _____ and immediately forget...

THEY WERE **AN ENDURING CHURCH (2:14)**

- They had their armor on and their sword sharpened
 - *“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.”* (Eph. 6:13)
- They stood in formation with their brethren
 - *“For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.”* (Zeph. 3:9)
- **THEY WERE FOLLOWERS OF THE LORD (1:6)**
 - *“imitators”* – gr. “mimētés” - mimic, “one who imitates, emulates“



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 - *“imitators”* – gr. “mimētēs” - mimic, “one who imitates, emulates“
- It was because they became imitators that they became a model



**THEY WERE
A MODEL CHURCH**

- **A WORKING CHURCH**
 - **SPREADING THE GOSPEL**
- **A CHANGED CHURCH**
 - **RECEPTIVE TO TEACHING**
- **AN ENDURING CHURCH**
 - **FOLLOWERS OF THE LORD**

LET'S STRIVE TO BE A MODEL CHURCH

ARE YOU A FOLLOWER OF THE LORD?

