

**"A Church Worthy to Imitate" – 1 Thess Introduction**  
**Pastor Bill Schlonecker – BFCN – May 27, 2018**

The City – Thessalonica – " \_\_\_\_\_ " was rampant  
\*Religion never was and never will be God's \_\_\_\_\_ for sin.

The Situation – Acts 17:1-9 tells the story – after leaving Philippi bruised and beaten but not defeated – head to Thessalonica

\*Please do not miss the reality that one who regularly \_\_\_\_\_ God had never come to know Jesus Christ as Savior (Lydia)

In Thessalonica they spent three Sabbaths reasoning, explaining, and proving that Jesus is the promised Messiah / Christ / Savior

\*Make no mistake, the \_\_\_\_\_ of a church – from its inception to culmination – is directly related to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word of God

Paul's reason for writing – 51-52 AD

1) To assure these new believers of his \_\_\_\_\_ and concern

2) To ground them in sound \_\_\_\_\_ / teaching

3) To call the young believers to \_\_\_\_\_

\*No matter how briefly or how long we have known Jesus Christ as our Savior, we will never \_\_\_\_\_ the need to grow in our understanding of how to \_\_\_\_\_ more fully – 4:1-2

Paul give thanks to God for His work in the believers' lives:

1-Work produced by \_\_\_\_\_ – Faith alone begins the journey called the Christian life...but works give evidence that faith is genuine.

2-Labor prompted by \_\_\_\_\_ – Christ-like love has staying power, is willing to go the distance

3-Endurance springing forth from \_\_\_\_\_ – steadfastness in following Christ thru difficult circumstances

To be a church where faith works...love labors...and hope endures