

A Model Church (1 Thessa 1:1-10)

“You became a model to all the believers.” A preacher once remarked, ‘If you ever find the perfect church, please don’t join it. If you do, it won’t be perfect anymore.’ In other words, it means to say, ‘no one is perfect.’ Nevertheless, Jesus wants his church to be blameless, pure, holy and faithful. It is possible and the church of the Thessalonians has been a model.

Reasons for being a model church (vv5-6)

1. They received the gospel with joy and conviction in the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. It is a church founded in God and in Christ (v1).
3. The church was strong because it is the community of the believers. It is addressed as the church of the Thessalonians and not the church at ... (v.1)
4. The church was strong because the ministers remained faithful and strong. They were united; upholding the members in prayer continually (v2).
5. Believers remained strong and faithful by imitating their leaders; Paul, Silas and Timothy and of the Lord (v.6).

The gift given to the church.

1. The church is given the supreme gifts i.e. Grace and Peace. Believers have the joy of being able to bless one another with grace and peace. Grace is hardly used in day to day vocabulary. But for redeemed children of God, living itself is by grace alone and the word grace is in our daily usage to the glory of God. Peace at the same time, is extensively used by people for peace accord, agreement, etc. Nevertheless these are impersonal. Peace that the Lord gives is within the heart of every believer which brings joy and comfort in every situation of our lives.
2. The church is given the gift of encouragement. The prayers of Paul and his team encouraged them, always thanking God for each of them (v2). Secondly, they thanked God for the three most needed virtues of a church: ‘Work produced by faith, Labor prompted by love and endurance inspired by hope.’ The living hope that was in Paul made him say, ‘...to live is Christ and to die is gain.’ And so it is for all believers.
3. The gift of faith and love continue to grow in this church; “Your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing (2Thes1:3.)” The same blessing continues today for all believers.

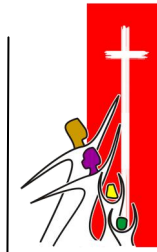
The Fruit of the church

1. They continued to proclaim the Gospel everywhere; ‘The Lord’s message rang out from you...your faith in God has become known everywhere (8).’
2. People all around spoke about how their lives had been changed from idol worship to serving the living God. Jesus said, ‘Let your light shine before men that they see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven’.

Conclusion

The church is not the building but the community of believers. Becoming a member of a church through water baptism alone is not enough. The church is considered as the bride of Christ. He is returning to this earth to be with his redeemed ones for eternity. Therefore, let us be sure that we are born again, washed by the blood of Jesus and be a part of the body of Jesus our Lord. Let us have this desire that we become a model to the people around us.

- M. Odyuo



City Church

VISION statement of the City Church:

City Church seeks to honor and worship Jesus Christ as Lord and the only God; and to build the Body of Christ (The Church) with all who love Him as disciples, proclaiming Him as the Savior to all nations.

AIMS of the City Church:

Worship: To Worship God and exalt His name together as a Church.

Fellowship: To build the body of Christ with all who love Him through mutual sharing, help and growth.

Evangelism: To witness for Christ both by proclamation and by lifestyle so as to cause others to experience God’s great salvation.

Discipleship: To establish members as disciples of Jesus Christ through systematic Bible Studies and teaching and equip them for effective service.

Mission: To send out people in obedience to God’s call and command to reach the un-reached for Christ.

Today’s Service

Leader	: Maa Imsong
Speaker	: Pastor Kedo Peseyie
Pianist	: Tekhe Colo
Ushers	: Robert Debbarma & Toshi Longkumer
Flower	: Dr. Lulu Aonok

Praise & Worship
Welcome & Announcement

Response of Praise and Trust : Psalm 84

Mass Prayer	(i) Your personal concerns (ii) Church ministry concerns
Hymn No.189	: Something for Thee
Offertory	Mission Trip Report
Message	
Hymn No.74	: I Gave My Life for Thee
Benediction	

citychurchkoh@gmail.com, Facebook: “City Church Kohima”.
Contact: 0370-2242687 / 7085120374

PRAYER

- Praise God for His grace and loving care upon all of us throughout the year 2016.
- Pray for God’s blessings, leading and wisdom as we begin the year 2017.
- Pray that as a church we would experience God’s nearness and grow into deeper relationship with our Lord in a new way.

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study resumes on 18th January @ 5pm

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!
My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—a place near your altar,
LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.
Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

Hear my prayer, LORD God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.
Look on our shield,
O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

Better is one day in your courts, than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

LORD Almighty, blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Amen

Sunday, January 8th, 2017

Tithes: ₹ 75,200 Offering: ₹ 5,022 Mission: ₹ 8,500 Building Fund: ₹ 1,000
Thanksgiving: ₹ 500 Total: ₹ 90,222

CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD AND THE WISDOM OF GOD

Message on New Year Day....

Update and Upgrade

(Romans 12:1-2)

As we enter into the New Year we cannot afford to live the same monotonous life as before but look forward with great expectations. (A school teacher claimed 25 years of experience, but her head teacher said of her- that she had just one year experience 25 times). Jesus promised that as we walk with Him we will see greater things (John 1:50, and do greater things John14:12)

Who we are in Christ: The Preceding chapters declares who we are in Christ Rom 5; **Rom 8:1,2** no more condemnation; 15- 17 God's children, co- heirs of Christ, call God as Daddy, Abba our Father; 28- 29 He works for our good, He destines us to be conformed to the likeness of His Son;37-39 we are more than conquerors!

Paul's appeal to Christians because of who they were in Christ (urged/pleaded) not command / threaten: in view of God's mercy/ God's grace, to which **the response is expected to be grateful obedience**. They can't be proud- because it is not by merit. As we also depend on God's grace we dare not be proud. **Appeal to offer our body as a living sacrifice (where our heart, soul, mind and strength reside)** (Mark12:30; I Cor 6: 13-15 and 19-20) **living sacrifice** also mean a new life not with old style. By obeying this prescription we can serve God acceptably and effectively. That is spiritual/ reasonable act of worship and not merely ritual act.

Be transformed- not reformed/repared. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this evil/ corrupted world system with its opinions/trends/ ideas, **but be transformed**. Ever since the fall people oppose Gods way, think and live upside down and anything right side up is considered upside down Acts 17:6NKJV.**How to be transformed?** *By renewing/ updating/ upgrading/realigning to God's ways.* (We renew Driving license, Passport from getting expired, even our mobile we update /upgrade to be useful)! **We realign** our spiritual life daily in the right direction Biblically so that we don't enter the enemy territory or else be shot down like Korean Air Line 007 in 1983, 31ST August with 269 people on the flight from Anchorage to Seoul in the Russian territory by the Russian soldiers!

Renew daily. Jesus tells us to '*carry up your cross daily and follow Me*' Luke 9: 24. We are potential being and we can become either better or worse but not remain same. **Christian life is impossible without supernatural work of God in us.** We need a change from inside us by God's power (not just outside). **This process of inward transformation of the mind is the only effective preservative against outward conformity with the spirit of this present age.** It makes us alert, intelligent, reasonable, relevant and effective Christian: *individually and as a church.* 1 Cor. 14:20 says 'in regard to evil be infants, *but in your thinking be adults.*'

So what is the purpose of transformation? Rom 8:29 'To be conformed to CHRISTLIKE-NESS';

2 Cor 3:18 says 'we are being transformed into His likeness'.

2 Cor 4:16 '*through outwardly we are wasting away yet inwardly we are all being renewed day by day*'.

Phil 3:20-21 'He will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body'.

Colo 3:1-4 'When Christ who is your life appears you also will appear with Him in Glory.'

It is possible because Christ paid by dying on the cross and He lives in us to see to it that His will, His purpose is fulfilled in us.

- Dr. Ahokhe Shikhu