

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of May 2019

What Kind of Church

(1 Thessalonians 1:6-10)

Sunday, May 5, 2019

The story is told of a man who once remarked to a friend that he was looking for the ideal New Testament Church. "I Hope you won't join it and destroy its perfection," replied the friend. We understand that any church made up of imperfect people cannot be a perfect church. But the ideal church is what we strive for and the Apostle Paul provides us with a description of the kind of church that he would consider ideal.

I. Imitators of Christ!

- A. Verse 6 speaks of the idea of Christians modeling their lives after Christ. Surely it would be an ideal church if all of us were thoroughly committed to being like Jesus in every situation.
- In tribulation Christ provides us with a model of Christian attitude and behavior. He suffered but submitted to God. When bad times come, let us respond in like manner.
 - Christ lived a life of tranquility and joy. The ideal Christian then, lived with a profound joy that comes from the Holy Spirit.

Sunday, May 12, 2019

- B. We are also to be examples for others. The Apostle Paul indicated that Christians should make themselves copies of Christ so that others could imitate them and thus be like Christ.

Sunday, May 19, 2019

II. Heralds of the Gospel!

- A. In Verse 8, Paul speaks of the kind of church that is actively involved in spreading the Gospel everywhere. It is easy for us to develop a spiritual condition that allows us to see only the physical needs around us. We cannot get side-tracked.

- B. The ideal church has a world vision and is responsive to the needs of the entire world. The world doesn't end in our backyards. We must extend ourselves to include supporting missions and worthy causes.

Sunday, May 26, 2019

III. Welcoming Spirits!

- A. Verse 9 refers to the qualities of hospitality that Paul would encourage in the church. We are to be constantly opening our arms to receive people with love. The church of Jesus Christ is to be inclusive, but all too often we are exclusive. We are to welcome all into our homes and into our churches.
- B. We are able to be open to receive the living and true God as an integral part of our lives. We are to be open to His presence, open to His word, and open to obeying His commandments.
- C. Christians need to be ready to receive and welcome the returning Savior. We don't talk much about the second coming of our Lord. Some have been so confused by the interpretation of the prophecies that they avoid thinking about the coming altogether. Other Christians don't care that Jesus is coming again. Informed and sensitive Christians, however, eagerly await His coming. Will it not be a welcome day when Christ is openly acknowledged as King and Lord of all that belongs to Him?

Finally, what kind of church will we be? Let us be imitators of Christ, our supreme example. Let us be busy broadcasting the Gospel near and far. Let us be open and receptive to one another, to those outside the family of faith and to the Lord himself.