

Celebrating a Consecrated Church, Part 2

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: 1 Thessalonians 1.

B. The Israelites celebrated when they gave for the glory of God to build in his honor. (1 Chronicles 29, Ezra 3)

C. The church at Thessalonica was a church to celebrate.

D. In order to celebrate, the heart of the pastor and the heart of the people must be right. There are several attitudes that a church must have.

II. Salvation.

A. They were truly saved.

B. Their faith produced works. We are saved unto good works. (James 2, Ephesians 2:8-9)

C. The Bible knows nothing of a faith that does not produce.

D. True faith...

1. Involves a true change.

2. Is marked by a union with Christ. (1 Corinthians 6:17)

3. Is marked by joy at receiving the Word of God despite the price.

III. Service.

A. God's word spread through the Thessalonians.

B. We ought to praise God for what he has done in the church.

C. We are motivated to serve by the return of Christ. (Acts 1)

IV. Steadfastness. We are faithful because Christ will redeem our work. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Application Questions:

1. On what grounds should a church celebrate a work that it has done?

2. What is the relationship between works and faith?

3. What positive things can you see God doing in your own community?
