

“Correction does much,
but encouragement does more.”
—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

001.tiff

“There are high spots in all of our
lives and most of them have come
about through encouragement from
someone else. I don't care how
great, how famous or successful
a man or woman may be,
each hungers for applause.”
—George Matthew Adams

002.tiff

“There are two ways of exerting one's
strength: one is pushing down, the other
is pulling up.” —Booker T. Washington

003.tiff

Acts 17—Background

004.tiff

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We
give thanks to God always for all of
you, constantly mentioning you in our
prayers, ³remembering before our
God and Father your work of faith
and labor of love and steadfastness of
hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

005.tiff

⁴For we know, brothers loved by
God, that He has chosen you,
⁵because our gospel came to you not
only in word, but also in power and in
the Holy Spirit and with full
conviction. You know what kind of
men we proved to be among you for
your sake. ⁶And you became imitators
of us and of the Lord, for you
received the word in much affliction,
with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

006.tiff

⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

007.tiff

⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

—1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 ESV

008.tiff

“Being the Church” means...
Our Faith is Active, Not Passive
(1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

009.tiff

Three virtues in the NT include:
1. Faith That Works

010.tiff

...be doers of the word, and not hearers only... —James 1:22 ESV

011.tiff

Three virtues in the NT include:
2. Love That Labors

012.tiff

...and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

—Romans 5:5 *ESV*

013.tiff

Three virtues in the NT include:

3. Hope That Sustains

014.tiff

...grieve as others do who have no hope. —1 Thessalonians 4:13b *ESV*

015.tiff

“Being the Church” means...
Ministry is Transformational, not Educational (1 Thessalonians 1:5-7)

016.tiff

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

—Romans 1:16 *ESV*

017.tiff

⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

—John 3:5-7 *ESV*

018.tiff

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. —Acts 1:8 ESV

019.tiff

“Being the Church” means...
Members are Missional, Not Just
Spiritual (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

020.tiff

Missional living is the adoption of the posture, thinking, behaviors, and practices of a missionary in order to engage others with the gospel message. It is something that happens in our neighborhoods, communities, cities, and ultimately throughout the world.

021.tiff

“Being the Church” means...
Service is Watchful, Not Wasteful
(1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)

022.tiff

Waiting involves two things:
activity and endurance.

023.tiff

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.

024.tiff

¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

025.tiff

¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.
—1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ESV

026.tiff

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
—1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV

027.tiff