

**“BE THE CHURCH !”**  
**(1Thessalonians 1:1-10)**  
*February 12, 2012*

**Five characteristics *every* church should strive for:**

**I. Be An ENERGETIC Church.**

**The work of the church is always teamwork!**

**Faith, hope and love are the three greatest greatest truths of our Christian faith.**

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*  
*1Corinthians 13:13*

**This early church is working hard and energetically for the Lord's sake. And so should WE.**

**II. Be An ELECT Church.**

**The words they shared was a message of truth and life and salvation available through Christ alone.**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

**We have been CHOSEN by God.**

**What a source of PEACE !**

**III. Be An EXEMPLARY Church.**

**Do you have enough belief in your lifestyle that you would challenge others to FOLLOW your example?**

**If not, what would or should you change?  
With God's HELP you can!**

**Are we an exemplary CHURCH for the sake of the name of Jesus?**

#### **IV. Be An EVANGELISTIC Church.**

*“The Lord's message rang out from you ...”*

**Despite the short time of teaching they received, their faith in God was becoming known “everywhere.”**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* *Acts 1:8*

**If you have received Jesus as your Savior, you have his Holy Spirit and Jesus expects you – expects us – to be his witnesses to our neighbors and to EVERYONE we can reach.**

**He expects us to ring out his gospel loud and clear to a dying world. That's what the Thessalonians did. That's what we must do.**

#### **V. Be An EXPECTANT Church.**

**They were waiting and we are waiting for Jesus.**

*If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.*

*1Corinthians 15:13-14,20*

**The great news is that the very name of Jesus means “Savior.” He WANTS to save you and me from the ultimate wrath of the Father which will be poured out on the earth in a fiery ending.**

**Those who have accepted Christ as their savior, need not fear.**

**The Thessalonians knew that and they faithfully SERVED as they waited.**