

Sermon Notes - January 7 2024

The Good (TOV) Church that God Blesses
1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

What makes for a Good Church?

Professor Scot McKnight - The “_____” Proposal.

Matthew 9:36 - *“When He saw the crowds He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”*

“Because there are so many who are wounded, we need a host of wounded _____”

Tov is a Hebrew word that means “_____”.

Genesis 1:4,10, 21, 25, 31 - God looked at what he had created and said, “It is _____.”

The word tov would best be translated with the word “_____”.

When God looked at his handiwork He did not just see beauty and perfection, He saw that it was functional, kind of like a well-oiled and tuned machine.

We have a _____ God who wants people to live joyfully, peacefully and abundantly.

The church should be marked by _____, truth, and love, not squabbles, controversies, and power struggles.

What is a good Church? One that figures out how to nurture _____ grace, truth and justice.

That is a church that Christ wants to _____.

The mission of a good church is about God’s redemptive _____ for people.

A good church will seek _____, _____ and _____.

Micah 6:8 “He has told you O man what is good and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

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

Paul, Silvanus and Timothy are praising the Thessalonica church for being a _____ church.

Vs. 1 Peace = Eirene (i-ray'-nay) which means _____ with God.

They realized The Lord is _____ Master. The authority over all.

Vs. 2 The Apostles are _____ thankful for the good _____
and the good _____ the church is doing.

The Thessalonian church had figured out how to _____ walk with God.

Vs 2: *"constantly mentioning you in our prayers..."*

What makes for a good church? People _____ constantly.

Vs. 3 *"... your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."*

This church was without _____ in prayer
2024 verse of the Year 1 Thessalonians 5:17 *"Pray without ceasing."*

A "good" church, in communion with the Lord, acknowledges Christ's _____

work on the cross, praying that all people will _____ and come to faith.

It offers _____, healing and _____ to

wounded people. And in this the church _____ to maturity spiritually.