

Our Testimony – What is our influence on others, near and far?

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom...” (Colossians 3:12-16)

Picking up from last week... Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

1. Our Ministry of Reconciliation
2. As Ambassadors for Christ – a profound duty
3. The Message of Reconciliation

Considering our individual and collective influence, as the “pillar and buttress of truth” (1 Tim 3:15)

4. The Model of the Thessalonian Church (1 Thess 1-2), observed from afar
 - they knew the meaning and significance of salvation in Christ (Acts 17:2-4)
 - the response to the Gospel was characterized by purity in living (1:5)
 - They were submitted to Christ as Lord (1:6). Their pursuit was to be like Christ.
 - They modeled their lives after the examples given by Paul and his companions (1:6)
 - In suffering and affliction (2:14-16), they received the Word with joy
 - they had an amazing two-fold testimony: 1) Christlikeness in living (exemplary lives)
 - 2) through the verbal witness of the Word, “sounding forth” [Greek: ‘echo’]
 - they maintained an eternal perspective... with a sense of urgency
 - They were steadfast in their view of the Word of God (2:13)
5. For next week, read; Ephesians 5:15-16; Ecclesiastes 12:1, Psalm 90:12; Colossians 3:23-24