



More Than Words

Sermon Series on 1 Thessalonians

September - November 2009

This Book Belongs to _____

“To the Point”



Introduction

Ever need to stop, collect yourself and think through where you've been? At this point in this study, we need to stop and get to the point...make sure we're not missing the point.

Churches have a history of resting on their laurels; they begin to believe they've arrived and stop learning and growing. From all we know, the church in Thessalonica never got to that point in their early years. Rather, they strove to be an example while also continuing to improve.

This week we pause to collect ourselves and to consider what we can put into practice to this point. Unlike previous studies where we explored a specific text, this week we explore concepts from what we've already studied.

Sermon Notes

Northwest should strive as a body of believers to be a _____ congregation and a _____ congregation.

- In our approach to ministry, we want to be both _____ and _____
- In dealing with the world, we want to be both _____ (by God's standards) and _____ (based on a redemptive belief and attitude).

We need to ask the question: Are we effectively _____
or _____ annoying?

Four keys:

- Collectively, we have an _____ and _____.
- Individually we have _____ and different _____ that make us more effective.
- Across the board, we have different _____ to live by.
- _____ lives speak a _____ message about faith.

Your Own Thoughts

Small Talk

1. Would you rather be a leader or a follower? Think in general terms for this discussion, but it's a fair question in life.

2. Would you rather the church you attend be a leading congregation or an unknown church of sorts?

Life Talk

1. When you consider your personal life and the community life of the Northwest Church, what examples do you see of both learning and leading?

2. We always want to intentionally reach into the world. We also want to balance this with flexibility and responsiveness (to urgent needs that arise). What acts of service can you point to – of intentional ministry and flexibility – that personally encourage you? Something that says, “Hey, we’re on the right track.”

3. Our culture constantly pushes back against the moral teachings of God. When you think about points of vulnerability (places the church is prone to “give in” to the culture), what comes to mind? How do we balance the redemptive nature of the church with the moral teachings of Christ?

4. In what ways should a church...and specifically the Northwest Church...live in a way to win the respect of outsiders?

5. Missionaries have pointed out the importance of serving a community before teaching a community. What types of Christian service open the door for Christian teaching?

Beyond Talk

Every Christian should engage in worship, learning and service. We are usually committed to worship. However, we often lack in our commitment to Christian learning and social action. Share with your group one environment for learning and one opportunity for service where your commitment should increase.

**15555 15th Avenue NE
Shoreline, WA 98155
www.nwchurch.net
206.364.2275**