

REVIVAL NEWS

From Revival Ministries Australia

P.O. Box 2718 BC TOOWOOMBA Q4350 Australia

Phone: 61-431603985; e-mail: rma@revivalministries.org.au

Website: www.revivalministries.org.au

Declaring the whole counsel of God Bulletin – Article 16 – May 26, 2025

OUR GOSPEL

PART 3 – AND YOU BECAME FOLLOWERS OF US

Nicholas Jackson

“As you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe” 1Thessalonians 1:5-7.

You know what kind of men we were among you

The apostolic team had a lifestyle that could be seen and provided an example. They did not only minister to the Thessalonians by preaching or being seen on a platform teaching. The team said, *“you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake” 1 Thess.1:5c*. They lived their lives in full view of the saints so that the believers could see what it looks like to follow Jesus. They had a behaviour and conduct that was seen **among** the Thessalonians.

They lived with them. They worked with them. They *“labored and toiled; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God” 1Thessalonians 1:9*. Paul and the team worked and lived **among** the Thessalonians showing them a whole new creation lifestyle! This is radical and so vastly different to most of the Christian world we witness today that emphasises flashing lights, platform ministry, great performances, wonderful sermons and surround sound experiences.

They were an apostolic team **among** them. Paul later told the elders at Ephesus take heed to *“all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers” Acts 20:28*. Peter also exhorted the elders by saying, *“The elders who are among you I exhort” 1 Peter 5:1*. The leadership in the New Testament church is **among the saints**.

**Our gospel involves a conduct of living among the ones
we are discipling and serving.**

You became followers of us and of the Lord

Due to their conduct and lifestyle example, Paul and the team were able to be *followed*. This is what the church worldwide has been lacking for hundreds of years – a way of life that can be *followed*. This is the heart of making disciples, the same heart that Jesus carried. Jesus brought His disciples into His lifestyle, providing an example, and He was able to say, *“Follow Me”* (Matthew 8:22, 9:9, 16:24, 19:21). Jesus offered an invitation to join with Him and learn this new way.

Paul and the team also produced *“followers”*. And they were confident in this way of life that if the Thessalonians *followed* them then they would also be *“followers...of the Lord”*. If we are following the Lord Jesus then we can invite others to join also! The word *followers* in this verse is the Greek word *mimetes* which means: *an imitator*. Paul uses it in 1 Corinthians 11:1 to say, *“imitate (follow) me, just as I also imitate Christ”*. He also exhorted the Philippians, *“Brethren join in following (imitating – Gk. mimetes) my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern”* Philippians 3:17. Our gospel is not just facts and information. Our gospel is not a church service formula.

Our gospel is a revelation of a new way of life that we are to model for others to enter into. We are to have a lifestyle that can be imitated!

Genuine investment in people’s lives for Jesus

By the grace of God at SHILOH there is a company of saints who are growing in living this out. Many in the nations are becoming known for their way of life in Christ and there are others who are imitating them. When these others imitate them, they are discovering that they are truly following the Lord and growing in love for Jesus. This is our gospel! It involves *“continuing steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine, in the fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers”* Acts 2:42. As apostolic ministers we are to be *“well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us”* 1 Thessalonians 2:8.

This is an investment in people’s lives. We are to disciple them, to take responsibility for their growth in Christ and see a mature body come forth. The apostolic team *“exhorted, and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you...”* 1 Thessalonians 2:11. This is what the new wineskin looks like. Fatherly care, not institutional maintenance and denominational success. The new wineskin sees people growing in the knowledge of God and the way of life in Christ Jesus. There is genuine care for the people of God, parental responsibility for the children of God, and intentionally serving the people of God to see them walking in the glory of the kingdom as a people prepared for Jesus!

Our gospel is taking responsibility to impart to the brethren a way of life and see a mature body come forth in the earth walking in the glory of His kingdom!

The faith of our gospel is to go out!

The result of the Thessalonians receiving *our gospel* through the apostolic team was that they *“became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe”* 1 Thessalonians 1:7. They became a pattern church for others, an example. From them *“the word of the Lord has sounded forth...in every place”* v.8. They were well disciplined. The word was coming out of them to every place! Through them, the Word was being heralded and proclaimed.

We are also such a company who have the heart for the Word to get into every place, so that everyone in the regions *“hears the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks”* Acts 19:9-10. Great is the company of those who proclaim the word! (Psalm 68:11). *“Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything”* 1 Thessalonians 1:8. Finally, the fruit speaks for itself. If we are making disciples well, eventually the fruit will speak for itself, and we do not need to say anything because our sons, the fruit, will speak with our enemies in the gate (Psalm 127:5). This is the outworking of *our gospel!*

Are you willing to own this gospel? Are you willing to be a team, a company, of disciples that can be imitated in such a way that Jesus is glorified through your lifestyle? Let us keep pressing forward to this goal of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus and see the raising of apostolic teams that are examples of the lifestyle of our gospel in every place!

Here is a recent report from brother Chiguduli in Malawi who is growing as an apostle. It is a good example of what has been shared in this bulletin. May it encourage you:

*I have a faithful disciple in Mchinji District. He was once in Lilongwe but transferred to Mchinji two years ago. I have been teaching him through WhatsApp and he has been teaching others. People (from other churches) have been amazed by his teachings, and they have been planning to invite me to go and teach them. Last month some of these leaders and Pastors got reports from other Pastors who attended the training that took place at Kabudula in Lilongwe Rural West. The Pastors from Mchinji have also agreed to do the same next week Wednesday. They have arranged everything including my transport, they want me to go and teach them. They are saying there will be around 100 leaders and Pastors across Mchinji District-They have agreed to come to one place so that I can teach them foundational doctrine...There is revival going on in our country. **The fame of what we are doing in Lilongwe is going far and wide.** People have begun to follow us, even those we did not expect. Their eyes are opening and begin to yearn for this life-giving doctrine-Apostolic doctrine.*