

THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

“For the word of God is living and powerful,
and sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing even to the division of soul and spirit,
and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner
of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

(Hebrews 4:12)

1 THESSALONIANS

“Holiness in Light of Christ’s Return”

“That He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”

(1 Thessalonians 3:13)

OUTLINE OF 1 THESSALONIANS

“Holiness in Light of Christ’s Return”

I. Personal Reflections *Chapters 1–3*

II. Practical Instructions *Chapters 4,5*

OUTLINE OF 1 THESSALONIANS

“Holiness in Light of Christ’s Return”

I. Personal Reflections *Chapters 1–3*

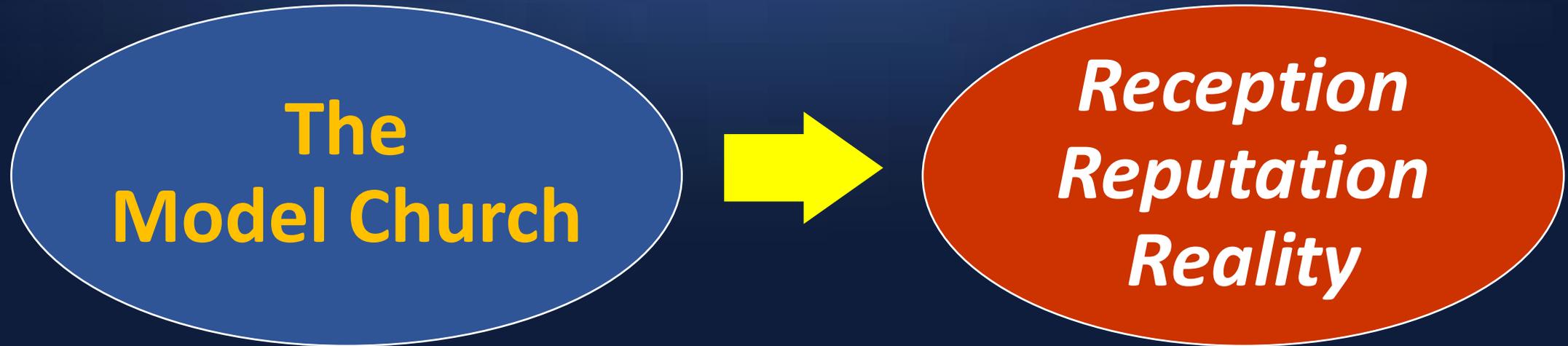
A. The Model Church *(1:1–10)*

B. Church: *“Approved by God”* *(2:1–16)*

C. Church: *“Our Glory and Joy”* *(2:17–3:13)*

IA. The Model Church

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10



How Do We Measure Up?

**1. Purity
of the Message**
(vv 1–6)

1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. **2** But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

“Boldness in Persecution”

**1. Purity
of the Message**
(vv 1–6)

3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. **4** But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

“No Error, Uncleanness, Deceit ... God–Approving”

**1. Purity
of the Message**
(vv 1–6)

5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness – God is witness.

6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

“Not for Gold nor Glory”

2. Passion of the Messenger (vv 7–12)

7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. **8** So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”

“Affection as a Nursing Mother”

**2. Passion
of the Messenger**
(vv 7–12)

9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God. **10** You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe.

**2. Passion
of the Messenger**
(vv 7–12)

11 As you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, **12** that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

“Biblical Father–Child Model”

**3. Practicality
of the Message**
(vv 13–16)

13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

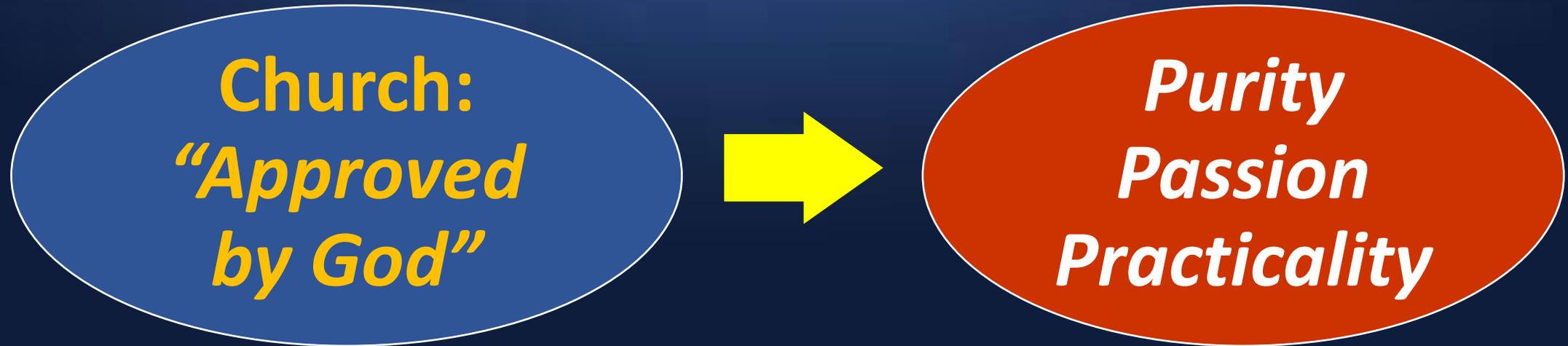
“Effective Out–Working of the Word”

3. Practicality of the Message *(vv 13–16)*

14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen ... **15** who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God ... **16** forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last.

IB. Church: *"Approved by God"*

1 Thessalonians 2:1–16



*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,
for He who promised is faithful."*

(Hebrews 10:23)