THE READY CHURCH IS...

- An Alive Church
- An Energized Church
- A Sharing Church  -- Sharing The Gospel To All
THE SHARING CHURCH

• The Principles Of Sharing

• A READY CHURCH: Speaks-Up to Please God
READ: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6 (NIV)

1. You know, brothers, that our visit to you was not a failure. 2. We had previously suffered and been insulted in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in spite of strong opposition. 3. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you.
THE SHARING CHURCH

• (4) On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts. (5) You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed--God is our witness. (6) We were not looking for praise from men, not from you or anyone else. As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, (7) we were gentle among you...
People in all ages have disliked and opposed the Gospel
The **Sharing Church**

- **Romans 10:13-14 (NIV)** (13) for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (14) How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

- **We Need To Speak-Up For God – It’s Part Of His Plan**
• “He who is immune to the praise of man is also immune to the criticism of man.”
  R Bonnke

• We Have To Do More Than Meet Together -- We Have To Share His Love And Truth To A Needy World
• Build loving relationships (2:8–9)

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9 (NIV) (7) but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. (8) We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us. (9) Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.
THE SHARING CHURCH

- **Washington Irving**: “The love of a mother is never exhausted. It never changes—it never tires—it endures through all; in good repute, in bad repute, in the face of the world’s condemnation, a mother’s love still lives on.”

- **We Have To Love & Care For Others Like A Mom Cares For Her Kids**

- **The Perfect Model Of Love Is Christ**
The Sharing Church

• Live What You Preach (2:10)

• 1 Thessalonians 2:10 (NIV) (10) You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.
WE NEED TO LIVE WHAT WE PREACH

(Luke 22:31-34 NIV) "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. (32) But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

We Need To Have An Effective Testimony

A Consistent Walk With God Is Important
• (Rom 1:16-17 NIV) "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." (17) "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith.""
• If Satan Can Get You To Stop
• Living For God
• Being An Example Of Godliness
• He Can Destroy Your Testimony
• Your Testimony Will Be A Determining Factor In Whether Or Not You Pass On Your Faith In God

• Your Testimony Is A Powerful Weapon Against Satan

• You Have To Live What You Preach
• Take time with individuals (2:11–12)

• 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NIV) (11) For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, (12) encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.
**GOD STILL CARES ABOUT “ONE”**

*(Luke 19:10 NIV)* For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

**Jesus Wanted To Save All Of The Lost Yet He Reached Out To The Individual**

**Jesus Told Parables To Illustrate His Love For The Lost Even If It Was Just “One”**
Jesus’ Parables Illustrate God’s Love For The Lost Even When It Was Just One

- One Sheep
- One Coin
- One Son

The Heart Of Jesus Is Geared To “One”
Products of EFFECTIVE Sharing

• The word welcomed (2:13)

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV) (13) And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.
• Persecution Endured (2:14–16)

1 Thessalonians 2:14-16 (NIV) (14) ... You suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews, ... They displease God and are hostile to all men (16) in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved.
The Sharing Church

- A Hope, A Joy, A Crown Are Coming
- 1 Thessalonians 2:17-20 (NIV) ... (19) For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? (20) Indeed, you are our glory and joy.
• Our Hope, Our Joy, Our Crown Is You!
• There Is A Crown To Look Forward To

• When Others Come To Christ What A Joy That Brings

• Those Far From God Come Close To Him
• Those Dead In Sin Come To Life In Christ
For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? (20) Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

- The Crown Worn By The Victorious
- The Crown Worn By The Selected
- The Crown Worn By The Honored

Crown Wearers Receive = The Life That Has Been Promised
When Jesus Comes He Has A Reward For His Faithful Ones

Revelation 22:12-13 (NIV) (12) "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. (13) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."
• A Ready Church Is Sharing The Gospel Message Powerfully And Effectively
• We Are Speaking-up To Please God (2:1–7)
• We Are Building Loving Relationships (2:8–9)
• We Are Living What We Preach (2:10)
• We Are Taking Time With Individuals (2:11–12)
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Products Of Sharing (2:13–16)

• The Word Welcomed (2:13)
• Persecution Endured (2:14–16)
• Hope, Joy, A Crown At His Coming