

Word Notes Sunday 01/02/15
Encouragement from Thessalonians I: Paul's Ministry

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Texts: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

Paul reminds his friends at Thessalonica of his ministry amongst them from which we can glean both an example of how to build people up in following Jesus and some of the characteristics he values in them. What example had Paul, Silas & Timothy given them that we can follow while seeking to build for the Kingdom?

1, The work is not in vain: NCC you are living proof that the work of those who dared to plant and those who nurtured you was worth it. Even when there's opposition or gains seem small, persevere. Remain God-fearing, truthful, and unselfish.

2, Care for each other. Take responsibility for yourselves and use your resources to help others. Encourage and comfort one another. Do this in all humility, gentleness being industrious and beyond reproach, living righteous and blameless lives. Remember this is not about legalism but living in the Spirit. If we are born of the Spirit rather than Law that's how we'll want to live, guided by the law written on our hearts rather than any set of dry rules.

3, Be true to what you have received, in Jesus and also from those who birthed and nurtured you. Consider what you might seek to imitate from both Paul, the early church and our own more recent spiritual heritage?

What's in our DNA?

Great Commandment, Praise & Worship
Move in the Spirit
Love the Word
Great Commission

Relationship with God and each other
Body Ministry
Love one another
Love the world.

In short – be the Body of Christ.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

When I'm away travelling I often get asked: "how's the church doing?"; what would your answer be?

Which parts of the identity of NCC (the "DNA" above) mean the most to you and why? What is your part in enhancing these aspects of the life of the body?

What pitfalls in outreach can you find in verses 1 to 6a? How can we avoid these as individuals and as a fellowship?

From verses 6b-8 how might we shape our care and outreach to others?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

Do the last 2 questions suggest any ideas for corporate outreach as a fellowship?