



## WHAT GREAT CHURCHES HAVE IN COMMON

June 16, 2024 // 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20 // Dr. Ron Jones

“I want to give you a lobotomy about change.” JIM COLLINS, *GOOD TO GREAT*

**1. Great churches have a \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s word.**

*And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.*

1 THESSALONIANS 2:13 ESV

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**2. Great churches are \_\_\_\_\_ by the world.**

*For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all mankind by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved—so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them at last!* 1 THESSALONIANS

2:14-16 ESV

*“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”* JOHN 15:18-19 ESV

### **3. Great churches \_\_\_\_\_.**

*But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.* 1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-18

*If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.* PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

### **4. Great churches wait in faith for \_\_\_\_\_.**

*For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy.* 1 THESSALONIANS 2:19-20  
ESV