An Influential Church
1 Thess. 1:1-10

Introduction:
A. Any good church (especially its leadership) wants to:
   1. Keep its own house in order.
   2. Extend its influence as far as possible.
B. “The church of the Thessalonians” was an influential church. (vs. 7,8)
   1. In its home province—Macedonia (Berea, Philippi)
   2. In its neighboring province—Achaia (Athens, Corinth).
   3. “In every place”—Only Lord knew full extent of her influence.
C. “The church of the Thessalonians”, like any influential church, was made up of influential members

Discussion:
I. They Were A Converted Membership.
   A. Who had received apostolic word as God’s word. (2:13).
      2. Respect its authority. (cf. 1 Cor. 14:37; Phil. 4:9).
   B. Who left world behind. (1:9-10; Cf. 1 Pet. 4:1-5).
   D. Whose faith was well-known. (1:8).
      1. Didn't have to guess where they stood on vital questions.
      2. Didn't have to fear “private position” differed from “public position”.
   E. Who received, practiced and supported true gospel preaching. (2:1-13).
      1. Bold (v. 2), yet gentle (v. 7,8).
      2. Controversial (v.2), but true (v. 13).
      3. God-pleasing rather than men pleasing. (vv. 4-6).
      5. Revealing rather than concealing unpleasant truth. (vv. 2-5)
   F. Who lived in joyful hope. (1:6,10; 4:13; 5:10).
II. They were A Converting Membership.
   A. Who “sounded out the word” and reinforced it by example. (1:7,8).
      1. We must sound it out to the lost in the world. (Mark 16:15,16).
      2. We must sound it out to the lost in the church. (Jas. 5:19,20).
   B. Who try to keep each other converted. (5:11).

Conclusion:
A. It is not our aim to make this church a popular church.
   1. With the world or community at large.
   2. With the “brotherhood”.
B. It is our aim to make this church an influential church for good.
   1. By making it a converted church.
   2. By making it a converting church.
C. It is not our aim to be a “thermometer” but a “thermostat” — In the world or the brotherhood.