

Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Outline

1. Verses 1-4, The Church of God
 - a. In God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
 - b. Bearing fruit of faith, hope, and love
 - c. Chosen and beloved by God
2. Verses 5-10, The Gospel of God
 - a. The word was brought
 - b. It came with power
 - c. It was received
 - d. It bore immediate fruit
 - e. It exploded in witness to the whole region
 - f. The witness was with words and a new life
 - g. The Gospel is about how we are delivered from the wrath to come

Quotes

- *He shows how the gospel creates a church and the church spreads the gospel, and how the gospel shapes the church, as the church seeks to live a life worthy of the gospel. - John Stott -*
- *It is a community beloved and chosen by God in a past eternity, rooted in God and drawing its life from him, and exhibiting this life in a faith which works, a love which labors, and a hope that endures. - John Stott -*

Application

1. Do you have a clear understanding of the Gospel as you present it to others? Are you fearful or bold in witness? Do you shrink back from talking about the "wrath to come?"
 2. Do you have faith for the power of the Spirit to work in people who are lost? Why or why not? Do you look on lost people with expectation of what God might do in them as they hear the Gospel?
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