1 Thessalonians

Lesson # 3

1:5-10

Your **memory verses** for the next two weeks are **1:9-10**

Take a moment to ask the Lord to give insight into your own heart as you study His word. Then, read through Chapter 1 before you begin the lesson.

**1.Verses 5-10 give us some insight into the means which God used to draw these chosen ones into His kingdom. What do we learn from verse 5 about their reception of the gospel?**

**2.Why did the Thessalonians respond to the gospel in this way? Look up the following Scriptures and note how this happens?**

**Romans 1:16**

**John 6:44**

John 16:7-8

Acts 13:46-48

**3. In v. 5 Paul describes effective, Spirit empowered gospel ministry. What does each of the phrases mean and imply about our gospel ministry?**

…in word

…in power

…in the Holy Spirit

…with full conviction

4. Knowing that this is the case, what should be our goal when we are sharing the gospel and how would you define a successful evangelistic encounter?

**5. God is the active hero in every salvation story. As believers, we must learn to interpret our conversion experience through the grid of God’s choosing, drawing, and saving us. Using this biblical lens, think back to your own conversion. How can you see God’s hand in drawing you to Himself? How did the Holy Spirit help you understand and embrace the gospel? Take some time today to thank God for choosing you!**

**6. Write down a few names of some of your unsaved friends or acquaintances that God has placed in your life. Are you regularly praying for their salvation? Do not let it end with prayer alone; often we need to stop praying for opportunities to evangelize, but for unashamed boldness to use the opportunities God is giving.**

1.

2.

3.

Take time in your small groups today to pray for each person’s salvation and for unashamed boldness to proclaim the gospel to them.

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” **2 Cor. 5:20**

**7**. **What were the circumstances in which the Thessalonians received the gospel, v. 6?** For more details on what happened, see **Acts 17:5-9**; 1 Thess. 2:14; 2 Thess. 1:4-6.

1. **How was it possible for the Thessalonians to respond with “joy” when they were enduring such suffering (vs. 6)?**

1. Paul said the Thessalonians also became imitators of *us and* *of the Lord*. In what specific areas are we to imitate God? (for ideas, see Luke. 6:36; John 15:12; Eph. 5:1; 1 Peter 1:15-16, 2:19-21.)
2. **Can you see in your life a pattern of becoming an imitator of the Lord? Are you aware of certain areas in which God is working on you now, to bring you to follow Christ’s example more faithfully? What POA’s do you need to make to change?**
3. In many of his letters Paul exhorts his readers to imitate him. Is Paul being arrogant in instructing them to do this? Look up 1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 4:9, and 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9. What is Paul’s real goal in offering himself up as an example?
4. **Can you, like Paul, confidently tell others to follow you as you are following Christ? Is your life an example for other believers, or are there specific areas in your life that you would NOT want others to imitate? Think hard, you may want to ask those who know you best.**

***The end of all learning is to know God, and out of that knowledge to love and imitate Him.” John Milton***

1. **Discipleship, at its core, is a relationship in which faithful Christians open their lives to younger believers and invite them to imitate their more mature faith. Then, these younger believers do the same with still others. How can you see this chain in verses 6 and 7? Where do you find yourself in this chain? Whom are you following, and who is following you?**
2. **What was the next step in the Thessalonians’ spiritual development (vs. 8)?**

Read Romans 10:8-17.

1. **How would you honestly evaluate your gospel ministry? The gospel ministry of our church, of your care group?**

***“I would sooner bring one sinner to Jesus Christ than unravel all the mysteries of the divine Word, for salvation is the one thing we are to live for.” Charles Spurgeon***

***If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for.” Charles Spurgeon***

***“As for the saints who are in the earth,***

***They are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight.”***

***Psalm 16:3***

1. **The Thessalonians turned to God from idols. (vs.9) Why is this statement such a great picture of what salvation entails?** Read Ps. 135:15-17; Hab. 2:18-19; Acts 14:15.
2. Richard Mayhue in his commentary on this passage states, *“An idol is anything, any attitude, any belief, or any god that so captures a person’s attention and allegiance that God does not have pre-eminence****.”* Is there any idol or allegiance in your life that you need to turn away from in order to serve the living and true God more completely?**
3. **From verse 10, for whom were the Thessalonians waiting and why?**
4. What do we learn about the coming of Christ from the following verses?

See 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Revelation 1:7; 3:11; Acts 1:9-11.

1. What should our attitude be towards the return of Christ? See 1 Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 3:20; 2 Timothy 4:8; Titus 2:13; James 5:8; Rev. 22:20.
2. **By way of review, from verses 3-10 what steps did we see in the Thessalonians’ conversion and growth?**
3. **Although the church at Thessalonica matured rather rapidly, these elements of growth should be identifiable in every fruitful Christian’s life. In which of the above-mentioned areas can you praise the Lord for the evidences of grace in your own life?**