



1 Thessalonians 1

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I. Greeting v1

II. The reputation of the Thessalonica Church, what the Word of Faith produced v2-10

A. Prayers

A. Genuineness

B. Young yet understood the depths of theology of the Christian Faith.

C. Accepted the Word of Truth in their lives.

D. Did not neglect the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

E. Desired fellowship and to receive from others.

F. Desired to fellowship with the Lord.

G. Became Examples to other.

H. Enthusiasm for the things of the Lord above everything else.

I. Passed along a pure Gospel, untainted by change for a better lot in life.

J. Laid down their culture for a new culture, in the light of persecution, as new citizens of Heaven and in a new life as a new creation in Christ.

K. Expectant of Christ's return for His Church.

Key Word: Faith, 1:3, 1:8

1 Thessalonians 1:1

Paul, in agreement with Silas and Timothy, is writing to affirm the Thessalonians alertness to where they have begun and where they continue. Paul says that its "... in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." And that He has given to every believer in order to ensure them of His power and strength which keeps them in Him "... Grace to you and peace" which is "... from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." The Church's true and only safe position is being located in God, and we're held there by His Grace and His Peace, our eternal position and our inner peace for our walk with Him in this world.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

Paul encourages the Thessalonians in their "work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope" throughout chapter 1, though the Holy Spirit inspires Paul primarily to focus on their work of faith in chapter 1, then labor of love in chapter 2, and patience of hope in chapter 3.

Faith is the key word or term that is used in chapter 1, the Greek word *pistis*, which means belief, pledge to, place one's trust in. In 1 Thess 1:8 the use of *pistis* is used to express the faith towards God being made known and public; in 1 Thess 1:3 "Work of Faith" the context, Paul refers to the belief through which the Believers entered into relationship with Jesus Christ. Work means that something has taken place. So a placing of Trust in Jesus Christ for our forgiveness of sins and future growth in Him has been made. Chapter 1 addresses what the work of God continues to be in the life of the believer as long as the individual keeps their trust in Him for His continued work in their life. John 6:29, Jesus tells us what the work of God looks like in the life of a believer, the eternal position He has given through Jesus, then the continual direction He gives as we keep our trust in Him in situations.

1 Thessalonians 1:4

Election:

Regarding the Father: Eph 1:4, 2 Tim 1:9 – God's choice of being saved by Grace by the work of Jesus on the Cross was laid out from before the foundation of creation.

Regarding the Son: Gal 2:20 – God's choice that our salvation was at the cross was decided upon before creation.

Regarding the Holy Spirit: 1 Cor 12:13, Titus 3:5-7 – God's choice that we would be sealed by Him through the power of the Holy Spirit at the moment we accepted Jesus Christ as our propitiation for our sins, was decided before creation.

Election by God was that it's by the name of Jesus and no other name that man must be saved. Up to the time of our Foundations series through 1 Thessalonians Galatians 2 study as well as Ephesians 1 study we went much deeper into the topic and concept of God's Election and removed those hurdles there.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

There are 12 things which Paul address grows out of a believer trusting in Jesus Christ, a process and life of trusting Him in our daily to daily life which is marked by and produces:

1) Prayers of thanksgiving for others v2

2) Absolute genuineness of our faith, love, and hope are when each of these are in and come from Jesus and our time with Jesus v3

a) It's our realization that everything "... is done in the sight of our God" which produces genuineness. Time with Jesus which produces an awareness that everything we do is before Him v3b

3) Understanding the plan and mystery of His Church, that it's from eternity. So there is no end nor defeat of it, because it was planned from and for the purpose of being eternal. There is no extinguishing the Church v4

4) Accepting the Word as Truth and holding it above any tradition v5a

5) Not neglecting the power of the Holy Spirit v5b

a) and the Holy Spirit's assuring work in confirming God's work in our life and in the midst of the Church.

b) and the Holy Spirit testifying what character and manner of individuals which come into the Church and in what motives and intentions.

6) Desire to fellowship in person with other and receive from them encouragement and exhortation v6a

7) Desire to Fellowship with the Lord and receive from Him and His Word daily, every growing Christian will have a desire to spend more and more time with the Lord daily. If you do not have a growing desire for a growing relationship with Jesus and His Word, you're not a **growing** Christian v6b

a) we do this with daily devotionals

b) daily times of reading His Word, and seeking His understanding of it

c) Receiving the Word from others

d) Receiving the Joy of the Holy Spirit, having the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

e) Finding reasons to come together with other believers and to be mutually edified and strengthened through Him and His Word.

8) Becoming examples to others v7

a) in receiving the Word

b) in receiving the Holy Spirit

c) in receiving from other Christians through in person fellowship

9) That we are enthusiastic v8

a) true evangelism is a byproduct of a healthy church, you always want to share something that is good and great.

b) There is Joy to be found in trials, God is in control as Paul shared in Philippians, and how because of sufferings often times there were barriers and road blocks for the Gospel to go forward in certain parts of the world and in certain people's lives, but because of these trials those barriers and road block have been removed and overcome.

c) trust in Jesus goes out, young Christians were sharing their faith, people were hearing, and they were getting saved by the testimony and Word that was shared by new believers.

i) the Church was less concerned with getting nonbelievers in front of Paul or someone with the proper training, and more concerned with getting people to hear of who Jesus is from the source closest to them.

10) Those getting saved from other regions and who were taking the Gospel back home, were sharing the same Gospel which Paul had delivered. They didn't give the local cultures the excuse for why the Gospel should be changed to make it more palatable and easier. And this was testimony of the Gospel which Paul and crew had shared, and how it only sought to elevate Jesus and not false comforts v9a

11) They did all of this, which was counter and opposite to the culture, heritage, and traditions they grew up in; and they were highly persecuted because of it. This became no reason to change the Gospel nor the importance of how it was shared or how you grew and were strengthened by the Word v9b

12) They were expectant of Christ's literal return to snatch up the Church from the wrath of God which would come upon an unbelieving world, because He has not destined us to His wrath v10

1 Thessalonians 1:9b-10

! Thessalonians 9b-10 by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul uses three specific and intentional tenses past, present, and future. "You turned," John 6:28-29, Acts 20:21; which was the work of faith the Thessalonians had committed to. "To serve the living and true God," John 4:35, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Hebrews 6:10; which is the labor of love which the power of the Holy Spirit had brought into and worked out of their lives. And "To wait for His Son," 2 Timothy 4:8; the patience which the Holy Spirit had produced in the lives of the believers which is expectant of the return of Jesus Christ for His Church, which is the promised encouragement that every bit of difficulties and trials are worth it for His returning for His Church.

The light of the church fails when unbelief, we don't turn from our previous idols, indolence or laziness, we avoid any exertion of our minds or bodies for Christ, and impatience, we are impatient with the Lord and others; when these are allowed to be unchallenged and unaddressed within the Church.