

MORE & MORE: A STUDY OF 1 THESSALONIANS
LESSON 2 – 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

PLEASANT VIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST
WINTER/SPRING 2026

C _____ (1)

-**Silvanus**: Acts 15:22-41;
16:19-40; 17:4, 10, 14, 15;
18:5; 2Co 1:19; 1Pe 5:12

-**Timothy**: Acts 16:1-5;
17:14-15; 18:5; 1Co 4:17;
Phil 2:19-20; 1Tim 1:2;
2Tim 1:2

C _____ (2-3)

-Your work of **faith**
*Eph 2:8-10; Jam 2:14-26
-Labor of **love** *Gal 5:6
-Steadfastness of **hope**
*Rom 5:2-5
*1Co 13:13; Gal 5:5-6;
Col 1:4-5; Heb 6:10-12;
10:22-24; 1Pe 1:21-22

C _____ (4)

C _____ (5)

"our gospel came to you"
The message itself is
more important than the
people who brought it!

C _____ (6-7)

-Those in Thessalonica
"received" the gospel
message and put it into
practice!
*James 1:19-25

-They did this with
"joy" in the face of
"much affliction"
*James 1:2-12

C _____ (8-10)

"sounded forth from you"
-They immediately began
living out their faith
through **mission efforts**
"they themselves"
-Their efforts were so
pervasive that Paul is
now hearing about their
conversion and ministry
from those he is around
in Corinth, **not just**
from Timothy
*1 Thess 3:1-10

-Paul might have heard
from **Silas** (Acts 18:5) as
well as **Priscilla** and
Aquila (Acts 18:2)

Most likely written while Paul
was in Corinth during his 2nd
missionary journey (Acts 18:1-17)

THE OCCASION FOR THIS LETTER IS TIMOTHY'S REUNION
WITH PAUL IN CORINTH (ACTS 18:5; 1TH 3:1-10)

¹ **Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy**, To the **church of the**
Thessalonians in **God the Father and the Lord** **Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.** Col 4:16

² **We give thanks** to God always for *all of you*,
constantly mentioning you in our **prayers**,
³ remembering before our **God and Father your**
work of faith and **labor of love** and **steadfastness of**
hope in our **Lord Jesus Christ**.

Paul gives the occasion for his "thanks"

⁴ **For we know**, brothers loved by God, that **he has**
chosen you, How did Paul know
Eph 1:3-14 they were chosen?

⁵ **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.

What they did when the
gospel came to them...

⁶ **And you became imitators of us and of the Lord**,
What is the evidence they became imitators?
⁷ **for you received the word in much affliction**,
with the **joy of the Holy Spirit**,

What was the effect of their reception?

⁸ **so that you became an example to all the**
believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

How did Paul know they had become examples?

⁹ **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.

Why did Paul not need to say anything?

¹⁰ **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, ¹⁰and to **wait for his Son from heaven**, whom
he raised from the dead, **Jesus who delivers us from**
the wrath to come. <- Summary of the gospel!

(4-10) Paul significantly expounds on his
ministry in Thessalonica in chapters 2 & 3

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PAUL & THESSALONICA

-Paul visited
Thessalonica with Silas
and Timothy during his
2nd missionary journey
*Acts 17:1-10

-Paul left Thessalonica
with Timothy & Silas
after unbelieving Jews
started an uprising
*1Th 2:17

-Jews from Thessalonica
eventually stirred up
trouble in Berea. Paul
is taken away to Athens
leaving Timothy and
Silas behind.
*Acts 17:14-15

-Paul sent Timothy back
to Thessalonica before a
reunion with Timothy &
Silas in Corinth
*Acts 18:5; 1Th 3:1-10

Word - The message was
spoken boldly by Paul in
Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-3)

Power - Paul's words were
validated with miraculous
works (Gal 3:5; Heb 2:3-4)

Holy Spirit - The Holy
Spirit gave Paul the
words, the **power**, and the
conviction (John 16:6-15)

Conviction - Paul's
conviction in his ministry
was demonstrated by his
actions (James 2:14-26)

Their works became
evident to those around
them in **Macedonia &**
Achaia, just as Paul's
had been among them:

- "imitators" (6)
*1Co 4:16; 11:1; Gal
4:12; Phil 3:17; 4:9

"everywhere"

-Hyperbole to express how
encouraged Paul is with
their response to the
gospel message (Rom 1:8)

-Even with this, Paul will
later exhort them to do
"more and more" (4:1)

"turned to God..."

To Serve - They made a
choice to serve God rather
than idols (themselves)

To Wait - Mt 24:36-25:46
This is addressed numerous
times in the letter
-2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:2, 23

Blanks:

Companions
Commended
Chosen
Convicted
Converted
Confirmed

Thessalonica

Thirty-three miles southwest of Philippi was Amphipolis, the capital of the northern district of Macedonia between 167–146 B.C. Situated on the east bank of the Strymon River, it straddled the Via Egnatia. But though it was larger and more important than Philippi, Paul and his companions “passed through” it. As they continued west-southwest on the Via Egnatia, they also passed through Apollonia some twenty-seven miles beyond Amphipolis. Their desire was to reach Thessalonica, the capital of the province of Macedonia and the largest and most prosperous city of all in Macedonia, which lay another forty miles southwest of Apollonia.

Thessalonica (modern Salonika) was strategically located on the Thermaic Gulf. It too straddled the Via Egnatia. It linked the rich agricultural plains of the Macedonian interior with the land and sea routes to the east. Cicero described it as “situated in the bosom of our domain” (*Pro Plancio* 41). It was probably founded by Cassander in 315 B.C. and named for his wife, the daughter of Philip II (cf. Strabo *Geography* 7.21), though other traditions trace its foundation to Philip himself and say it was named either for his daughter or in honor of his victory over the Thessalonians. When Rome conquered Macedonia in 167 B.C., Thessalonica became the capital of the second of the four administrative districts of the province. Then with the reorganization of Macedonia into one province in 142 B.C., Thessalonica became its capital. In the second civil war it sided with Mark Antony and Octavian (later Augustus) against Cassius and Brutus, and because of its loyalty it was declared a free city in 42 B.C. (cf. Plutarch *Brutus* 46).

As a large city of perhaps two hundred thousand, and one that dominated Macedonian government and commerce, Thessalonica naturally attracted diverse groups of people including a substantial Jewish contingent (1 Thess 2:14–16). Paul seems to have looked on it as the strategic center for the spread of the gospel throughout the Balkan peninsula (1 Thess 1:7–8). Therefore Paul and Silas—though doubtless in some pain from their recent beating and time in the stocks—pushed on resolutely the hundred miles from Philippi to Thessalonica.¹

¹ Longenecker, R. N. (1981). The Acts of the Apostles. In F. E. Gaebelein (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: John and Acts* (Vol. 9, p. 468). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

Paul & Thessalonica

-Paul visited Thessalonica with Silas and Timothy during his 2nd missionary journey

Acts 17:1–10 (ESV)

¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, **they came to Thessalonica**, where there was a **synagogue of the Jews**. ² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.” ⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵ But **the Jews were jealous**, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, **they formed a mob**, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. ⁶ And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, ⁷ and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.” ⁸ And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things. ⁹ And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.

-Paul left Thessalonica with Timothy & Silas after unbelieving Jews started an uprising

1 Thessalonians 2:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ 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,

-Jews from Thessalonica eventually stirred up trouble in Berea. Paul is taken away to Athens leaving Timothy and Silas behind.

Acts 17:14–15 (ESV)

¹⁴ Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but **Silas and Timothy remained there**. ¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

-Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica before a reunion with Timothy & Silas in Corinth

Acts 18:5 (ESV)

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 3:1–10 (ESV)

¹ Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, ³ that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. ⁴ For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

⁶ But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— ⁷ for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. ⁸ For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. ⁹ For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

Written While Paul Was in Corinth

Acts 18:1–17 (ESV)

¹ After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, ³ and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶ And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." ⁷ And he left there and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. His house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized. ⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm

you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

¹² But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal,¹³ saying, “This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.”¹⁴ But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint.”¹⁵ But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.”¹⁶ And he drove them from the tribunal.¹⁷ And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

Silvanus

Acts 15:22–41 (ESV)

²² Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers,²³ with the following letter: “The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings.²⁴ Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions,²⁵ it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁷ We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth.²⁸ For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:²⁹ that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

³⁰ So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter.³¹ And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement.³² And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.³³ And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them.³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

³⁶ And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.”³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark.³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.³⁹ And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus,⁴⁰ but Paul chose

Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Acts 16:19–40 (ESV)

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, **they seized Paul and Silas** and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers.²⁰ And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, “These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city.²¹ They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice.”²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods.²³ And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely.²⁴ Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight **Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God**, and the prisoners were listening to them,²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone’s bonds were unfastened.²⁷ When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.”²⁹ And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas.³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”³¹ And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.³³ And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family.³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

³⁵ But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, “Let those men go.”³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, “The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace.”³⁷ But Paul said to them, **“They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out.”**³⁸ The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens.³⁹ So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city.⁴⁰ So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

Acts 17:4 (ESV)

⁴ And some of them were persuaded and **joined Paul and Silas**, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.

Acts 17:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.

Acts 17:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there.

Acts 17:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

Acts 18:5 (ESV)

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

2 Corinthians 1:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes.

1 Peter 5:12 (ESV)

¹² By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

Timothy

Acts 16:1–5 (ESV)

¹ Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

Acts 17:14–15 (ESV)

¹⁴ Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. ¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

Acts 18:5 (ESV)

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

1 Corinthians 4:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

Philippians 2:19–20 (ESV)

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.

1 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)

² To Timothy, my true child in the faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:2 (ESV)

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Church of the Thessalonians

Colossians 4:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea.

Grace & Peace

Romans 1:7 (ESV)

⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2 (ESV)

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All of You

1 Corinthians 12:12–26 (ESV)

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

In Our Prayers

Romans 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

1 Corinthians 1:4 (ESV)

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,

Ephesians 1:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

Philippians 1:3 (ESV)

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

Colossians 1:3 (ESV)

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

Faith, Love, Hope

1 Corinthians 13:13 (ESV)

¹³ So now **faith, hope, and love** abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Galatians 5:5–6 (ESV)

⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Colossians 1:4–5 (ESV)

⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

Hebrews 6:10–12 (ESV)

¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. ¹¹ And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 10:22–24 (ESV)

²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

1 Peter 1:21–22 (ESV)

²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,

-Your work of faith

Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

James 2:14–26 (ESV)

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

-Labor of love

Galatians 5:6 (ESV)

⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only **faith working through love**.

-Steadfastness of hope

Romans 5:2–5 (ESV)

² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we **rejoice in hope of the glory of God**. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Chosen You

Ephesians 1:3–14 (ESV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as he **chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Gospel Came to You

Word - The message was *spoken* boldly by Paul in Thessalonica

Acts 17:1–3 (ESV)

¹ Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days **he reasoned with them from the Scriptures**, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ.”

Power – Paul’s words were *validated* with miraculous works

Galatians 3:5 (ESV)

⁵ Does **he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you** do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—

Hebrews 2:3–4 (ESV)

³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while **God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.**

Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit gave Paul the *words*, the *power*, and the *conviction*

John 16:6–15 (ESV)

⁶ **But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.** ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² **“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.** ¹³ **When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that**

are to come.¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Conviction – Paul’s conviction in his ministry was demonstrated by his actions

James 2:14–26 (ESV)

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? ¹⁷ So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! ²⁰ Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²² You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; ²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. ²⁴ You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. ²⁵ And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? ²⁶ For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Received and Practiced

-Those in Thessalonica **“received”** the gospel message and put it into **practice!**

James 1:19–25 (ESV)

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: **let every person be quick to hear**, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and **receive with meekness the implanted word**, which is able to save your souls.

²² But **be doers of the word, and not hearers only**, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the **one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.**

-They did this with **“joy”** in the face of **“much affliction”**

James 1:2–12 (ESV)

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Imitators and Examples

Their works became evident to those around them in **Macedonia & Achaia**, just as Paul's had been among them:

"imitators" (6)

1 Corinthians 4:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV)

¹ Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Galatians 4:12 (ESV)

¹² Brothers, I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong.

Philippians 3:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Philippians 4:9 (ESV)

⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

“they themselves”

-Their efforts were so **pervasive** that Paul is now hearing about their conversion and ministry from those he is around in Corinth, **not just from Timothy**

1 Thessalonians 3:1–10 (ESV)

¹ Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, ² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, ³ that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. ⁴ For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

⁶ But now that **Timothy has come to us from you**, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— ⁷ for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. ⁸ For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. ⁹ For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

-Paul might have heard from **Silas**

Acts 18:5 (ESV)

⁵ When **Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia**, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

as well as **Priscilla** and **Aquila**

Acts 18:2 (ESV)

² And he found a **Jew named Aquila**, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with **his wife Priscilla**, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them,

“everywhere”

-Hyperbole to express how encouraged Paul is with their response to the gospel message

Romans 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because **your faith is proclaimed in all the world**.

-Even with this, Paul will later exhort them to do “*more and more*”

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (ESV)

¹ Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that **you do so more and more.**

“turned to God...”

*To Serve – They made **a choice** to serve God rather than idols (themselves)*

To Wait

Matthew 24:36–25:46 (ESV)

³⁶ “**But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.** ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ **Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**

This is addressed numerous times in the letter

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (ESV)

¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 5:2 (ESV)

² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (ESV)

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.