



1 Thessalonians: Part 3

A Life of Faith

Chapter 1: The Gospel

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 from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



Hi! Welcome back for session three of 1 Thessalonians, A life of Faith. Please continue to work off your original copy of 1Thessalonians 1. If you have lost your copy, run a fresh page or use the copy at the end of this lesson. As always, please start your study time with prayer. Sign your initials on the line when you have finished: _____.

Please go back and read 1 Thessalonians 1. Mark or highlight any words or phrases that are meaningful to you.

Please look again at verse 4. Circle the word that tells how the Christians are chosen by God.

Were you ever elected for student government when you were in school? I wasn't, but I can imagine how wonderful it must feel to be chosen by your peers for a prestigious position. In the original Greek, the word "elected" is very interesting. "Elected" transliterates as "ekloge," which means, "of the act of God's free will by which before the foundation of the world, He decreed His blessings to certain persons ... the decree made from choice by which He determined to bless certain persons through Christ by grace alone; to pick out, choose, to pick or choose out for one's self; of Jesus choosing His disciples." Please highlight or underline phrases from the definition that are most meaningful to you.

With the definitions in mind, look back at verse 4 again and name two (one from the definition and one from the verse) reasons why God has elected us to be His.

"Ekloge" also means to choose one for an office, or business, or to do a certain job.

What particular job/s has God given you to do?

No matter our gifting or skill set, God has anointed us to do three main things:

- 1) Make disciples of all nations through the truth of the Gospel,
- 2) Edify the church, and
- 3) Glorify Him.



How are you using your gifts to ...

... spread the Gospel?

... edify the church?

... glorify God?

The original Greek word used in verse 5 for "Gospel" is "euaggelion," which means "good tidings, the glad tidings of the salvation message." Euaggelion is derived from the root word "aggelos," which means "one who is sent, a messenger of God." Our English word "angel" descends from "aggelos." Since we have been entrusted with the Gospel, we too are messengers of God. What is our message? The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To whom have you recently delivered God's message of salvation?

Go back to page 1, read verse 5 again, and draw a symbol above the word "Gospel." My symbol is shown below.



"For our gospel did not come to you in word only ..."

According to verse 5, name four ways the Gospel comes to us.

Please highlight the way that is most meaningful to you. The Gospel did not come to us in regular words, but in words full of power. The source of this power is the Holy Spirit. Why did the Gospel come to us? The definition of the Greek word "come" contains the answer. "Come" means to "come into existence; to appear in history; of miracles, to be wrought, to be performed." The Gospel has come to work the miraculous in our lives. Miraculous things come only from Jesus. The Gospel, literally the "Good News," is not just for salvation, but for every day, every situation, every need, and every want.



The word "assurance" from verse 5 is intriguing. It means, "entire confidence; the freedom of mind and confidence resulting from an understanding in Christ; the character of the faith by which we are to draw near to God." We can confidently rest in the truth of the Gospel because God is worthy of our trust. We have freedom from worry and fear because God is managing every facet of our lives. "Assurance" also refers to things that have already been accomplished. The work of the cross was indeed "accomplished" 2000 years ago, when Jesus said, "It is finished." We may confidently rest because no further work is needed to secure our salvation and sanctification.

What happens as a result of accepting the Gospel of Christ (verse 6)?

A complete change of life. We leave our own desires behind and become "followers" of Christ. Please go back and draw a symbol above the word "followers" in verse 6. The Greek word for "follower" is "mimētēs." Our English word "mime" is derived from "mimetes." What do mimes do? They mimic or copy the behaviors of others. When I was in elementary school it was a terrible stigma to be labeled a "copycat." What would you rather do ... follow your own heart or mimic Jesus? Frankly, I'd rather copy Jesus. He has never had a bad idea or made a bad decision, while I have tried to train-wreck my life several times. Blue Letter Bible states that the verb tense of the word "follower" indicates, "what we became at conversion, we must diligently continue to be thereafter."

How are you diligently continuing after Christ?

We need to saturate ourselves in the Gospel every day of our lives, until it fills every crack and shattered place; permeates every thought, word, and deed; and seeps into the very thread and fabric of our lives. Then we will overflow with the life, light, and truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ everywhere we go.

Thank you for joining me today for Bible study.

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