

## Paul Praises the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Intro: In this first chapter Paul commends the Thessalonian believers for their reception of the Gospel of God, and praises them for their “work of faith, labor of love and steadfastness of hope” (vv. 2-4). He goes on to describe the powerful transformation that the gospel of God—*the good news of life and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ*—had produced in them, so that the report of their conversion spread throughout Macedonia, Achai, and in every place (vv. 5-10). The gospel, creates more churches, which in turn spread the gospel further thereby creating more churches, and on and on. ***This is God’s marvelous plan for ongoing evangelism through local churches.***

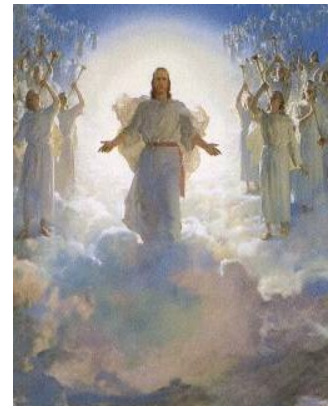
### I. Paul’s Opening Salutation and Greeting 1:1

### II. Paul’s Thanksgiving for the Thessalonian Believers 1:2-4

- A. Paul always thanks God, and prays for the Thessalonians (v. 2)
- B. Paul constantly (cough) remembers three things about the Thessalonians (v. 3)
  - 1. *Their work of faith*—belief in and acceptance of Jesus Christ
  - 2. *and labor of love*—love for God and for one another
  - 3. *and steadfastness of hope*—looking forward to Jesus’ coming
- C. Paul is convinced of God’s choice or election of the Thessalonians (v. 4)

### III. Paul Reviews the Thessalonians’ Salvation and Subsequent Witness 1:5-10

- A. First, “*our Gospel came to you*” (v. 5)
  - 1. The Gospel came to the Thessalonians with words.
  - 2. The Gospel came to the Thessalonians in power.
  - 3. The Gospel came to the Thessalonians with deep conviction
  - 4. The Gospel came to the Thessalonians by the Holy Spirit.
- B. Secondly, “*you welcomed the message*” (v. 6-7)
  - 1. *in spite of much tribulation or severe suffering.*
  - 2. *with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.*
  - 3. *You became imitators of us and of the Lord.*
  - 4. *So that you became an example (witness) to all* (v. 7).
- C. Thirdly, “*the Lord’s message has sounded forth or rang out from you*” (vv. 8-9).
- D. Lastly, the Thessalonian believers were:
  - 1. living a life of service to Christ, and anticipating His sudden return.
  - 2. looking forward to Jesus’ coming to deliver them from the wrath of God.



Applications:

- 1. As a believer I am promised deliverance from the wrath of God to come! (1:10; 5:9)
- 2. **Our Slogan:** Live a holy life in anticipation of Jesus’ sudden coming for us!