

MESSAGE: A Picture of the Church

TEXT: 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

October 3, 2021

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Introduction:

1. A _____ People (vv.4-6)

"For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you,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.⁶ **And** you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit..."

How does Paul know they are chosen by God?

A. The Gospel came in _____ (v.4-5; Acts 17:1-4).

- "Our gospel came to you not only in word" (Acts 17:1-4).
- "In power" (1 Corinthians 2:4-5; Acts 14:3; 16:17-18; 19:6, 11-12; Romans 15:17-19).
- "In the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:4-6; John 3; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Ezekiel 36:22-28).
- "With full conviction" (John 16:7-9).

B. The Gospel was _____ (v.6; 2:13).

2. A _____ People (vv.7-8).

"...⁷ so that *you became an example to all the believers* in Macedonia and in Achaia.⁸ **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."

3. A _____ People (v.9).

"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..."

4. A _____ People (v.10).

"...*and to wait for his Son from heaven*, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

Conclusion:

Community Group Questions

1. In Acts 17:4-9 we learn that some believed, and some did not. Why is that according to 1 Thessalonians. 1:4-6?
2. What does Paul mean when he says the Gospel came to them 'in power', 'in the Holy Spirit' and 'with full conviction' (See 1 Corinthians 2:1-4; Romans 15:17-19; Titus 3:4-6; John 3; 16:7-9).
3. How should Paul's comments in 1 Thessalonians. 1:4-6 affect how we think about reaching lost people? What role do we play in reaching lost people (Acts 17:1-4; 1 Thessalonians. 1:4-6)?
4. Identify by name at least 2 lost people that you would like to pray for. Take time to pray for them in your group. Invite God to grant you open doors and a boldness to share (Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:3; Matthew 9:35-10:1). Ask God to help you to be '*passionate and intentional in reaching South Delta with the hope of the Gospel*' (TAC Vision). Acknowledge apathy if it exists in your life and repent of a heart that is cold towards lost people.
5. What role does repentance play in our conversion according to 1 Thessalonians. 1:9; Luke 24:45-47? Do you believe the church (not just TAC) talks about repentance enough? Is this something missing in our gospel presentations today?
6. The Thessalonian believers were waiting for the second coming of Jesus and it seems they had a longing for his return (1 Thessalonians. 1:10). Why were they longing for his return? Do you think the church in North America is longing for his return? If not, why do you think we do not long for his return? What needs to change?