

First Thessalonians 1:4-10

1:2-3 – Paul began thanksgiving for the Thessalonians production, labor and endurance. This was thanksgiving for the results of their salvation.

In verses 4-10 Paul will identify these things:

1. Thessalonians were “loved by God”
2. Thessalonians were “chosen” by God
3. Paul brought the Gospel, but it was more than simply Paul’s words. It also came with divine presence:
 - a. “in power”
 - b. “in Holy Spirit”
 - c. Paul’s “deep conviction” by the way Paul, Timothy and Silas lived among them
4. Thessalonians imitated Paul lifestyle and the Lord’s character
5. Thessalonians faced suffering, but continued with spiritual fruit of joy from H.S.
6. Thessalonians became a model. They began to do what Paul, Timothy and Silas were doing.
7. Thessalonians proclaimed the message and their faith everywhere
8. Paul’s job is finished since others besides the Thessalonians are now proclaiming the truth:
 - a. Receive the message
 - b. Turn from idols
 - c. Wait for Jesus to return
 - d. Avoid the coming wrath of God

1:4 – Paul continues thanksgiving, but now it is defined by “know.” Paul knows about the past and about what has caused the Thessalonians to come to a place of their current productive Christian life.

Paul states the foundation of the Thessalonians Christian faith is:

1. God’s love
2. God’s election

This both explains why and empowers them to continue

This is the unseen reason and proof of the legitimacy of their faith

Paul is talking about the Gentiles being loved and elected. Israel heard these words in Deuteronomy 7:7-8 from Moses, “The Lord set his affection on you...choose you...loved you...brought you out.” Israel did not earn or deserve the Lord’s deliverance, but the Lord moved. (Note that not ALL that were loved, choose and delivered accepted it. Israel was choose, but the individuals had to respond. Now Paul is making it clear that God has done the same for the Gentiles. But, they will individually have to respond.)

Paul only uses the word “election” again in Romans 9-11 when he talks about Israel.

Romans 16:13 is the only time “election” is used to refer to an individual, Rufus.

Paul will use the word “election” in Eph. 1:4

Colossians 3:12 the Gentiles are elect.

Titus 1:1 and 2 Timothy 2:10 the Christian believers are elect

1:5 – Paul now identifies the Thessalonians experience to confirm their faith.

1. Paul admits that his ministry was “only words” as he brought the message of life, but they were not merely words. They were the words of life that came with his personal conviction/lifestyle and the Holy Spirit’s presence and a transforming power. The mystical presence in the Word’s of God.
2. Paul’s preaching with deep conviction that was supported by his lifestyle among them. Paul was not a philosopher with empty words of theory or a life coach with words of self-help and advice.
3. Like 1 Cor. 2:1-5, “not with wise and persuasive words”, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power.
4. Paul does not remind them of the Gospel (which he calls “our gospel”) because they remember the content of the message. Paul is not trying to persuade them with the logic of the Gospel, but asking them to remember the mystical power from the Holy Spirit they experience when they heard the words of the Gospel.
5. The power and conviction are not in how intense Paul spoke (that is irrelevant) the conviction was in Paul’s supporting lifestyle and the power was in the transformation the words had in the lives of the Thessalonians
6. The presence of the Holy Spirit in their experience was because the Gentiles had been chosen and loved by God (John 3:16)

1:6 – The idea here continues with the thought like this:

1:4 – Knowing you are elected...

(Gentiles chosen)

1:5 –so that our Gospel came to you with power...

(H.S. power in Word)

1:6 –which made you imitators of us and of the Lord himself.

(Character of God, fruit)