

## I THESSALONIANS

### Chapter 1

#### I. PAUL'S ESTEEM FOR THE THESSALONIANS (1:1-10)

A. Revealed itself in his prayers and remembrance of them (1-4)

1. He was always thankful to God for them and therefore prayed for them. When we esteem fellow believers, we will thank God for them in our prayers (2).
2. The reason Paul was thankful for the Thessalonians and prayed for them was because he couldn't stop remembering their work of faith, their labor of love, and their patience of hope in Christ (3). Verses 9 and 10 express these three things: they turned to God from idols (work of faith), they served the living and true God (labor of love), and they waited for the Lord's return (patience of hope).
3. Based upon these evidences Paul knew they were God's elect—that is saved people (4).

B. Grew out of the example they had set (5-10)

1. First of all, when they heard the word they set an example by believing it because they knew what manner of men Paul and his followers were (5).
  - a. Oftentimes people don't believe the gospel because they don't know that the messengers are with them for their sakes.
  - b. Because the Thessalonians believed what they heard from Paul, the gospel came to them in power and or "even" in the Holy Spirit and there was much assurance that He was working in their midst.
2. Secondly, the Thessalonian believers set an example by becoming followers of the Lord's servants and the Lord (6).
  - a. The evidence that the Thessalonians became followers was seen in the affliction they bore upon receiving Word. Note 2:14
  - b. But along with the affliction they had, as

Paul and the others had, joy of the Holy Spirit.

3. Thirdly, the Thessalonian believers set an example by the way they witnessed (7-10).
  - a. They were an example -to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia ( 7 ) .
  - b. The reason they were examples as witnesses is because they sounded out the Word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place( 8 ) .
  - c. Such was the Word about the Thessalonians spread that Paul said in other places there was no need to speak of their faith. Folks had already heard ( 8 ) .
  - d. Paul said in other places they show or report how the Thessalonians believed and turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God ( 9 ) .
  - e. While serving God, the word was out about the Thessalonians that they were waiting for God's son from heaven whom He had raised ( 10 ) .
  - f. The word "**delivered**" is present tense and should be rendered "**who delivers**" from the wrath to come. The wrath here has reference to the tribulation period and the deliverance at the rapture when Christ will catch up believers.