

Rejoicing and Resting in God's Grace

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

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.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you, making mention of you in
our prayers; ³ constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor
of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the
presence of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, brethren, beloved by
God, His choice of you; ⁵ for our gospel did not come to you in word
only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction;
just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

⁶ You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

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The marks of authentic faith are pointed out in the scriptures primarily to comfort and strengthen the believer.

Though they should unsettle the unsaved, they should assure the saints.

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Gratitude for grace made visible...

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.

² **We always give thanks** to God **for** all of **you**, making mention of you in
our prayers; ³ constantly bearing in mind **your work of faith** and **labor**
of love and **steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ** in
the presence of our God and Father

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What is the evidence of election? (vs 4)

⁴ **knowing**, brethren, beloved by God, **His choice of you**

When you consider these markers of genuine faith, do not focus on whether or not they are perfected or completed in you... they never will be.

Are they present?

Has new life begun to grow?

Regardless of pace, does it continue to grow?

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- The Gospel came to you...
 - In power (vs 5)
 - In the Holy Spirit (vs 5)
 - With Full Conviction (1:5; 2:5-6, 11-12)

⁵ for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also **in power** and **in the Holy Spirit** and **with full conviction**; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sakes.

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- You welcomed the message...
 - You received it with joy (vs 6)
 - You received it in spite of suffering (vs 6)
 - You received it as the word of God (2:13)

⁶ You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, **having received the word** in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit

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- You became imitators and imitable...
 - Imitators of mature believers (1:6; 2:14)
 - Imitators of Christ (vs 6)
 - Imitable for other believers (vs 8)

⁶ You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, **⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers** in Macedonia and in Achaia. **⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth**

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- You were turned...
 - From idols to God (vs 9)
 - To serve the one, true, living God (vs 9)
 - To wait for Jesus, who rescues you (vs 10)

⁹ For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how **you turned to God from idols to serve** a living and true God, ¹⁰ **and to wait for** His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is **Jesus**, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

Questions for Reflection

- Has the Gospel come to you?
- Are you welcoming the message that you must believe in Christ and are you receiving it as the word of God?
- Do you want to follow godly examples and be a godly example?
- Have you turned to serve the Lord and wait for Jesus to rescue you?

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