

GOD'S CHOICE OF YOU – PART 2

--1ST THESSALONIANS 1:1-10--

INTRODUCTION:

We began our journey through 1st Thessalonians last week as we looked at Paul's salutation. This salutation contained a prayer of thanksgiving by Paul for the Thessalonian believers. Paul thanked God for them and thanked God for their work of faith, their labor of love, and their steadfastness of hope which all pointed to the fact that God had chosen them as His own people, He had chosen them for salvation. This choice was seen in the fact that the Gospel had come to them not in word only but in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

This morning's message will resume in verse 5, and we will see that their salvation that took place while Paul was with them and what had taken place from that time on was also proof of God's choice of them.

I. GOD'S CHOICE SEEN IN THE RECEPTION OF THE WORD

(1st Thessalonians 1:5)

- a. Paul proclaims that the first sign of God's choice of the Thessalonian believers was seen in the _____ revealed in the preaching of the Gospel to them.
- b. Paul first says that this divine power was seen in the fact that the message did not come in _____ only. (Romans 10:17)
- c. Jesus, when speaking to Nicodemus in John 3, spoke of the inability of all _____ to believe the truth. (John 3:19-20; 2nd Corinthians 4:3-4)
- d. Such _____ to awaken the spiritually dead and open the eyes of the spiritually blind comes from the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)
- e. To ensure that his readers understood this power with which these men preached the gospel was from the Holy Spirit, Paul reminds them of the _____ of men Paul, Silas, and Timothy proved to be among them for the sake of the Thessalonians.

I. GOD'S CHOICE SEEN IN THE THESSALONIANS' IMITATION (1st Thessalonians 1:6)

- a. Another indicator that the Thessalonian believers were chosen by God was their _____ of Paul, Silas, and Timothy and their imitation of the Lord Jesus.
- b. Part of that imitation came in the way the new believers responded to _____, they imitated how Paul and his companions responded to it, and how Jesus responded to it.
- c. The word translated "_____" means "severe suffering." (Romans 5:1-4)

II. GOD'S CHOICE SEEN IN THE THESSALONIANS' EXAMPLE (1st Thessalonians 1:7-9a)

- a. Paul gives a third sign that God had chosen the Thessalonians as His own, and that sign was their behavior which became an _____ to all.
- b. To illustrate this example that the Thessalonian Christians had become, Paul later uses them as models for _____ and financial stewardship. (2nd Corinthians 8:1-6)
- c. Not only was the example of the Thessalonian believers commendable, but another indicator of their being chosen by God was their _____ of the Gospel.
- d. Because Thessalonica was a hub for travel, people coming through Macedonia heard the _____ of the Lord, the Gospel message from true believers.
- e. Paul said that their influence and the witness of their faith toward God was so extensive that Paul had _____ need to say anything.

III. GOD'S CHOICE SEEN IN TRANSFORMATION AND ANTICIPATION (1st Thessalonians 1:9b-10)

- a. Paul continues and gives another indicator of the Thessalonians being God's choice and that is seen in the total _____ of their lives.

- b. The final indicator that Paul gives us that shows God's choice of these Thessalonian believers was there _____ for God's Son to return from heaven.
- c. The true believer looks eagerly for Christ's return because he knows it brings to fulfillment and satisfaction God's eternal purpose, which Paul states that the return of Jesus rescues us from the _____ to come.

CONCLUSION:

Paul in the second half of this first chapter of 1st Thessalonians gives us several signs of someone chosen by God as His own, chosen by God for salvation. These same signs should be evident in our own lives that we have been chosen by God. It should be evident that we have received the word of the Lord delivered to us in the power of the Holy Spirit and received it as the power of the Holy Spirit spiritually raised us from the dead and opened our spiritually blind eyes to the truth of the Gospel message. God's choice of us is seen as we imitate Christ, as the work of sanctification begins conforming us to the image of Christ. God's choice of you should be seen in your example, and your witness to those around you, are you sending forth the Gospel message by your words, actions, and attitudes. Finally, is God's choice of you seen in the complete transformation that has taken place in your life? Are you waiting expectantly for Christ's return that could be at any time. Are you eagerly looking for His coming for the church to rescue us from the wrath to come? If these signs are evident in your life, then you know that God has chosen you and you have been adopted into His family by your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. If these signs are not evident in your life maybe today is the day to discover God's choice of you. Tell God that you are a sinner that you have not believed in Him or obeyed Him, but you want the forgiveness of sins that He offers through faith in His Son's death, burial, and resurrection. Put your faith in Him and your sins will be forgiven and you will know that you are God's choice and you will know that He will rescue you from the wrath to come.