

## Power of WORD + SPIRIT ?

- ☑ Makes godly ministers vs. 5
- ☑ Forms Christ-followers vs. 6
- ☑ Word of the LORD "sounds forth" vs 7-8

If so powerful why isn't everyone changed ?

☐☐ People's hearts open to WORD + Ministry of Gospel based on Θ's Election "For we know brothers loved by Θ, that he has chosen you, because..."

⇒ → Θ opens ♥ to His Gospel!

### 3. Witness of the Community ▶ Conversion

☐☐ Described as turning from idols and waiting for His Son!

Note : Return of Jesus is integral to Gospel Message + Ministry ... Each chapter of 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 3:13, 4:13ff and 5:1ff

Q. Have you experienced converting power of WORD + SPIRIT so you turn from idols and wait for His Son from Heaven ?

## COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the characteristics of the Community formed by the Gospel Message that you see in 1 Thessalonians chapter one?
2. Discuss the following three lessons regarding the Gospel message and ministry: (1) That the Word of God/Gospel of Jesus is to have primacy in the life and ministry of the church; (2) The Word of God and Power of the Spirit to change the hearts and lives of the elect; (3) The Witness of the community impacted by the power of the Word/Gospel and Spirit. Why do you think that these are important to the life of the church today? How is Redeemer doing in these things?
3. Pray for each other that God's mighty Word/Gospel & Spirit would work in your hearts and in our church.

## 1 Thessalonians ... Why?

**Practical** Powerfully melds Gospel message w. Gospel Ministry to form Gospel Community **John Stott**

**Personal** My ♥ calling to preach the Gospel and do Gospel Ministry to form Gospel Community!

So What? Relevance today... w. all of my troubles?

ANSWER = We are in an age/place very much like 1st Century Thessalonica + the east sides greatest need + your greatest need is to be a gospel-shaped church

① **LOOK** at the Gospel <sup>message</sup> formed Community <sub>ministry</sub>

**≡≡** Acts 15:36 - 17:10 = 2nd Missionary journey  
▶ Paul, Silas + Timothy to Macedonia, Philippi + Thessalonica ▶ Paul's Preaching 17:1-3

"Church... of Thessalonians... in the Father + the LORD Jesus Christ" = Background

Paul's Thankfulness to the

- ☑ Work of faith
  - ☑ Labor of love
  - ☑ Steadfastness of Hope
- } in our LORD Jesus

② **LEARN** 3 LESSONS ↗ Gospel Message  
↘ Gospel Ministry

1. The Primacy of the preaching of the WORD ▶ specifically the Gospel of Jesus ▶ in the formation of the church.

Heard of the Catholic vs. Protestant debate?

- ☑ Gospel came to them "our Gospel came to u"
- ☑ Not based on man, character of ministers, though character counts (cf. 1:6, 2:4ff)
- ☑ Not church establishing the WORD, but WORD of Gospel forming church!

**Apply** = The primacy of the Preaching of the WORD, Gospel, in the life and formation of the Church **Dr. Lloyd-Jones, Preaching + Preachers**

2. The Power of the WORD + Spirit

**≡≡** But also in power and in the Holy Spirit and w. full conviction