



The
Watcher's
Lantern

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The Lantern Exists

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-5

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

The Gospel Came to You

We can't think our way to holiness. Sanctification by information transfer has never worked.

James K.A. Smith

How can you live with the terrifying thought that the hurricane has become human, that fire has become flesh, that life itself came to life and walked in our midst?

N.T. Wright

A gospel that only **informs** you will never
transform you.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:9

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

What the Gospel Exposes in You

Anything can serve as a counterfeit god, especially the very best things in life.

Timothy Keller

Idolatry is taking some incomplete joy of this world and building your entire life on it.

Alexis de Tocqueville

An idol will take **everything** you give it and
return **nothing** you need.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:6-8

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

Who the Gospel Has Made You

God has set people apart to be living signals of this new world.

N.T. Wright

As we glimpse the living God, we are transformed into his likeness.

N.T. Wright

An empire stamps its image on what it **owns. The
gospel stamps its image on who it **loves**.**

The Watcher's Lantern

The lantern was never yours to **light. It
was yours to **hold**.**