

Authenticated Amplification

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

vs. 2-3, Always thank God for all of you (the church).

The discipline of remembering through prayer.

Romans 1:9 God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in telling the good news about his Son—that I constantly mention you,

Deuteronomy 7:18 do not be afraid of them. Be sure to remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and all Egypt:

Work - produced by **faith** (trust)

Labor - motivated by **love**

Endurance - inspired by **hope**

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us,

All active, none are passive.

Full commitment to God from the start.

Question: Are you an encourager and do you have an encourager? Are you someone who knows and cares? Are you someone who comes along side and endures?

Revelation 2:2-3 I know your works, your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them to be liars. **3** I know that you have persevered and endured hardships for the sake of my name, and you have not grown weary.

vs. 4, Both brothers and sisters (Christian siblings - over 2 dozen times in 5 chapters)

Strong cultural understanding concerning siblings - strong desire to protect and seek out the welfare of the other.

Question: What is the reality of our church relationships? Do we view each other as siblings? Is Jesus a greater bond than blood relations? Do we feel the responsibility to care for one another?

This changes the accountability conversation.

You are loved. God has a deep affection for you.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You are chosen

He chose you then, he loves you now.

vs. 5, Remember (the power of the gospel).

Question: What have you seen? What have you lived? How have you witnessed the changing of lives because of the power of the gospel?

The gospel wasn't simply a story to tell, It is a story that is lived (demonstrated) and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives the gospel its seal of authentication.

Examples of this...

- We lived among you.
- You could imitate us.
- More importantly, you can imitate our reflection of Christ (Amplifying Jesus with every breath).

vs. 6, In spite of severe persecution (social harassment), the gospel message still filled you with joy!

vs. 7-8, Your faithfulness has made you an example to all believers throughout Macedonia.

The word of the Lord rang out!

Your faith (loyalty / courage) has equipped you to

- Turn from idols.
- Serve the living and true God.
- Wait for Jesus. (Where is Jesus now? What does he do?) -> He rescues us!

vs. 9,

As we are gravitationally pulled into the orbit of God's grace and power, we are reshaped into the image of God's son.

Romans 8:29 For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Change isn't always "glamorous".

Transformation is positive, but it isn't absent of sacrifice.

2 Corinthians 4:12 So then, death is at work in us, but life in you.

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Transformation -> death at work in us.

Living our lives in eager anticipation of Jesus' return.

In the trench it can very much appear that the worldly powers are winning.

But...we live according to an alternative vision. That vision is Hope!

Hope -> embracing the invisible (but real) future promised by the invisible (but real) God.

vs. 10, Jesus has and will continue to be our Rescuer!

Rescue - to free or deliver from confinement, danger, or difficulty

Romans 2:5 Because of your hardened and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment is revealed.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Revelation 6:16 And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb,

Question: Have you pondered the depth of the truth that as a child of God, Jesus has rescued you from wrath? Are you still clinging to the prison bars of your sin? Are you embracing the truth that Jesus has set you free? What are the real implications in your life concerning Jesus delivering you from confinement?

I am no longer confined.