

A person is silhouetted against a bright sunrise over a landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and some clouds. The person is standing on a hill or ridge, looking out over the landscape.

Crack of Dawn (COD) Study

# 1 Thessalonians

## Conviction . . . Doing Love

Verses 1:6-10

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. 1:8

# Backtrack



Acts 16:8 – Acts 17:15

- Acts 16:20-21
- Acts 17:5-7

100 miles Philippi to Thess

50 miles Thess to Berea

250 miles Berea to Athens

40 miles Athens to Corinth

# Awards Banquet

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*We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and **with deep conviction.***

1 Thess 1:2 thru 5a

# Awards Banquet

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*5<sup>b</sup> You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.*

*6 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, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to **all the believers** in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

1 Thess 1:5b thru 10

# Chosen . . . However

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The Thessalonian church was **unique**.

Their hearts were “*animated*” toward doing **works of faith**  
and investing themselves into **labors of love**.

*For we know, brothers loved by God, that He has chosen you, . . .* v. 4

Chosen uniquely?

(i.e. imbued with “super powers”?)

# Chosen . . . However

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**However**, the church in Corinth was also called by God, empowered by the HS and addressed by Paul in a similar way:

*I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God that was given to you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> For **you were made rich in every way in Him**, in all your speech and in every kind of knowledge—<sup>6</sup> just as the testimony about Christ has been confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup> **so that you do not lack any spiritual gift** as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also **strengthen you to the end**, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, **by whom you were called into fellowship** with his son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

1 Cor 1:4-9

# Chosen . . . However

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*When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come with superior eloquence or wisdom as I proclaimed the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to be concerned about nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and with much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My conversation and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a **demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith would not be based on human wisdom but on the power of God.***

1 Cor 2:1-5

# Chosen . . . However

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However –

the two churches behaved much differently from each other.

- Each church was chosen by God and convicted at the outset by the Holy Spirit; by Paul.
- But the Corinthians did not leverage their calling and move forward with increasing love and maturity. Why?
- Was there a difference in the “level of conviction” conveyed by the Holy Spirit? by Paul?



# Regarding conviction

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*“ . . . in that our gospel did not come to you merely in words, but in power and in the Holy Spirit and **with deep conviction** (surely you recall the character we displayed when we came among you to help you).”* v. 5

Deeply convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit?

Deeply convicted by the *works of faith* and *labor of love* by Paul?

# Regarding conviction

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**Def:** a strong opinion or belief in something.

e.g1. religious or moral convictions regarding the truth of something

e.g2. mental conviction that one is able to accomplish something

**Test:** is the “strength of action” consistent with the conviction claimed?

e.g1. He said he had deep moral convictions, but his actions said otherwise.

e.g2. They had a sizeable lead but lacked the conviction to win the game

# Regarding conviction

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The conviction described in this chapter can be seen as a *two-sided catalyst* for **strength of action**.

Paul's persistence in delivering the gospel message ignored the persecution he endured. Neither his message nor his conviction changed.

The Thessalonian believers, in spite of similar persecution, exhibited the same unwavering conviction while imitating Paul as they ministered *everywhere* throughout the region.

They were driven by their conviction  
in the truth of the cross of Christ.

# Regarding conviction

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One might conclude that:  
those who *behave* with deep conviction  
*plant seeds* of deep conviction.

“This gospel had been preached ***with* words**, yet not merely ***by* words** but **with power**, the inherent, supernatural power of the gospel as **energized** by the Holy Spirit.

Paul and his companions ***preached*** this gospel with full conviction, and it ***produced*** full conviction in the Thessalonians.”

Kevin D. Zuber, “1 Thessalonians,”  
*The Moody Bible Commentary*, ed.

(emphasis mine)

# What happened in Corinth?

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## Enter carnal man:

- Both churches had the same advantage – i.e. they were chosen **uniquely**.
- But they allowed temptation to **weaken their faith**
- Their **strength of conviction** progressively diminished.
- Consequently – **no works of faith; no labors of love**

*‘But I say, live by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh has desires that are opposed to the Spirit, and the Spirit has desires that are opposed to the flesh, for these are in opposition to each other, so that you cannot do what you want. . . . ‘*

Gal 5:16 - 24

# Truth of the gospel message

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- The truth of the gospel message is the **SOURCE** of our conviction
- It is **NOT** something we only need to hear once in our lives
- It is a message we need to reacquaint ourselves with **EVERY DAY**  
*(and allow it to sink in).*
- We need to be reminded daily of:
  - who we were without Christ
  - what our eternal prospects were
  - who we are now because of His death and resurrection
  - where our hope lies
- Since we died with Him, we now live *in Him*.