

Turning the World Upside Down: Gospel Mission

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 // Pastor Rob // 6.14.20

When the gospel came to Thessalonica, it caused such a disturbance the believers were accused of "turning the world upside down." The question we are asking for this series is, "What were they doing that would cause others to say this about them?" In our passage for today, we learn about the first of 5 things they were about... Gospel Mission. The Thessalonians not only received the gospel of King Jesus, but shared it with others. This was the beginning of turning the world upside down. As we consider their response to the gospel, we can consider ours as well as individuals and as a church as we too seek to shake things up for Jesus.

Community Group Questions:

Check in with each other. Where do you see God's grace in your life and where do you need God's grace in your life?

Have someone in the group summarize what happened when the gospel was first preached in Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-9).

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10. What initial impressions, thoughts, or questions do you have?

What does Paul say about the quality of their faith as he reflects back on how they received the gospel? (2-3) What are some other ways you might describe these qualities in your own words?

Paul also mentions that he saw the gospel come in power. Share stories of power or things that, "only God could do" either in your own story of becoming a Christian or in others you know.

Have you seen God just "do stuff" recently in your life that might be encouraging to share with your group.

Notice Paul mentioning how they become "imitators" of him. What is the role that we have in helping others follow Jesus? Do you think you downplay your own potential in helping others?

What do we learn about their faith in v7-9?

Pastor Rob divided this passage into 4 aspects of "gospel mission." (Receiving the gospel, Growing as a disciple, Making disciples, and Hoping in Jesus' return.) As we participate in these 4 things, we'll be a part of "turning the world upside down." Is there a particular aspect that you relate to right now in your life with Jesus? Share that with the group.