

1 Thessalonians 1:4 - 10

A model Church

A powerful gospel verses 4 & 5

- Paul mentions where faith, hope and love spring forth from, the fountain of election
- The words 'knowing' and 'beloved' are in perfect tense, a complete action
- His choice signifies God reaching down, Christ descending and grasping us
- The church had a firm grip on the gospel, when a church has that the rest follows
- Verse 5 is the explanation of that election, the results were from an outside force
- Paul's preaching was not hollow words or scripted points, not a sales pitch
- Divine power is not like any other power through the Holy Spirit
- When the Holy Spirit comes, so does full conviction as in assurance
- A personal act from God Himself into each person's life
- In a time of all kinds of ways to share the good news, testimony is still no. 1
- People are looking for what we have

Waiting & Serving verse 6-10

- Joy came with tribulation, Thessalonica was a pagan/dark place
- Pressure was present but joy was present from the Holy Spirit
- So much joy a natural example to all believers went further through reputation
- Without communication, the word of the Lord sounded forth
- Sounded here means thundered or echoing out loud, a continual & repeated action
- So much so that Paul said, "I know, I was there."
- The good news beat Paul to some places
- How can Paul tell other places about Thessalonica, when they tell him
- The church's present faith toward God, does not resemble the attitude & pagan ways
- When they turned from idols and sin, their service in deeds was better than words
- A work through the Holy Spirit far exceeds an explanation in words
- They didn't just talk about it, they did it and did it in power
- The powerful word was paired with powerful service
- Not only was their service noted by many but their ability to wait on Jesus
- The rescue to come was from the wrath of God, which we are saved from
- Wrath is in these sense a deep approaching anger
- The hope was not a vague wishful thought, it was based an event yet to transpire
- This event is just as finished as the resurrection itself, its coming for sure
- This hope can endure tribulation into a certain deliverance
- The pagan idol Cabirus was a major idol worshipped in Thessalonica
- Cabirus was killed by his brothers and thought to return to help the poor
- They were saved children of God serving and waiting for deliverance
- Our deliverance is spiritual and physical