

GOD'S CHOICE OF YOU – PART 1

--1ST THESSALONIANS 1:1-10--

INTRODUCTION:

Our introduction to 1st and 2nd Thessalonians was to look back to before these letters were written to see why Paul wrote these letters. We learned that Paul and his companions, Silas and Timothy, had planted a church in Thessalonica during Paul's second missionary journey. How much time they spent in Thessalonica teaching the new believers we do not know but due to some jealous, unbelieving Jews their time in Thessalonica was cut short as they had to flee the city under the cover of darkness. The church sent Paul, Silas, and Timothy away by night for fear that if seen in the city they might be harmed. This was the situation that Paul was in when he left Thessalonica, he was concerned for the new believers that he was leaving behind, fearing that they would not be able to stand firm under affliction. It is in response to this concern and a report by Timothy on the condition of the church that prompts Paul to write these two letters.

I. SALUTATION (1st Thessalonians 1:1)

- a. There were standards of _____ writing in Paul's day just as there is in our day.
- b. He begins by identifying that this letter is from himself and Silvanus (_____) and Timothy.
- c. Paul continued his salutation with a greeting of _____ to you and peace.

II. MENTIONING (1st Thessalonians 1:2)

- a. Paul after his salutation launches into a _____ for the Thessalonian believers.
- b. As we look at Paul's prayer this morning, let's think about what our _____ look like and how they compare to Paul's prayers?
- c. Paul's prayer for the Thessalonian believers begins with _____.

III. REMEMBERING (1st Thessalonians 1:3)

- a. Paul begins by bearing in mind or remembering the Thessalonians _____ of faith and he gives thanks for it. (Hebrews 11:1)
- b. This kind of _____ works.
- c. Paul continues in thanking God for the Thessalonian believers, and he is not only thankful for their "work of faith" but also remembers and gives thanks for their "_____ of love."
- d. Paul gives one more virtue seen in the Thessalonian believers that he is thankful for, it is their _____ of hope. (Titus 2:11-13)
- e. This word translated steadfastness conveys the idea of _____ or perseverance, literally, it denotes the condition of enduring under pressure.
- f. Paul was _____ for these spiritual virtues and when he prayed for the Thessalonian believers.

IV. KNOWING (1st Thessalonians 1:4-5a)

- a. Paul ties verse four into his _____ of thanksgiving. (1st Thessalonians 2:11-12)
- b. The doctrine of election is often controversial because it teaches that election is of God's free _____, without regard for our future choices.
- c. Look how Paul uses this doctrine here. Paul has two _____ in using the doctrine of election in his prayer of thanksgiving.
- d. First, Paul is saying that God's choice of these Thessalonians was the _____ why they had faith, love, and hope.
- e. Paul's second goal is that for the same reason that God chose Israel, He also chose us, because we are _____ by God.
- f. Sometimes when we talk about election, we are tempted to leave it there in the eternal _____ of God.
- g. Paul is using the doctrine of election to bring them _____.

CONCLUSION:

This morning we have been looking at Paul's prayer of thanksgiving for the Thessalonian believers. His ultimate reason for

thanksgiving is because as people beloved by God, God has chosen them as His own. Our prayer of thanksgiving should echo Paul because God has loved us and chosen us for His own, we are His elect people. You are one of God's chosen children if you have agreed with God that you are a sinner hopeless and helpless to escape God wrath against sin on your own. But in faith you believe that Jesus took God's wrath against sin on Himself on your behalf. You believe He died, was buried and on the third day rose from the dead proving that sin and Satan and death were defeated. When you believe this in faith you are God's elect and it will be seen in the fruit of your work of faith, your labor of love, and your steadfastness of hope, and your response will be a prayer of thanksgiving to God who loved you and chose you.