

The Bible for Everyman: 1 Thessalonians

As One: The Unity of God's People

Week 1: 1 Thessalonians Chapter 1

Context of 1 Thessalonians:

- Most likely Paul's first letter written to a planted church
- Re-read the story of the church's birth in Acts 17
- Paul & Silas plant the church, and the persecution becomes far too great

Take a look at Acts 17:7, and the accusation of the believers...

"They are all guilty of treason against Caesar, for they profess allegiance to another King, named Jesus."

"We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly. 3 As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thess. 2-3)

Never attach _____ to what _____ is doing through you. • What do we mean by "yourself"? Your feelings of self worth, accomplishment, pride or even your identity to the things that GOD is responsible for.

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him."
(Philippians 2:13)

Paul Thanks God for what he sees in the lives of the men around him, specifically their:

_____ **Work**

_____ **Deeds**

And _____ **Hope**

Love is the engine for the entire church, for God's man it is love and not fear that motivates him. **Our**
_____ **moves us to** _____.

The love we've experienced moves us out....and it moves us out in both FAITH and HOPE. **For**
God's man, _____.

His view of Himself

His understanding of Christ

His hope for the future

"Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see....By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen." (Hebrews 11:1 & 3)

It is the Gospel of Peace, and the person of Christ that unites the church.

If Christ is what _____ us, what is powerful enough to _____ us?

‘We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you.’ (1 Thess. 4 & 5) This verse speaks so much identity over us as God’s men:

1. God _____ you
2. God _____ you

“...it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. (1 Thessalonians 1:5)

The Christian life is based on the TRUTH of the gospel.....and then it’s lived out by the POWER of the Holy Spirit. Often in the context of difficult situations, remember:

God doesn’t _____ our pain, but He doesn’t _____ it either!

“And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don’t need to tell them about it, for they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God’s Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead.”

God is making His appeal to this world: Through _____, _____ our stories and _____ our faith.

People must experience a real faith in us and it begs the question. **What _____ is your life telling? What kind of _____ is your life putting on display?**

By committing his life to the rhythms of prayer, of confession and reflection God’s man gives his worries to the Lord...and then what does the world see? Peace.

“Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:7)

“...they keep telling us about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God’s son from Heaven - Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.”