

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. We were not looking for praise from

people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom

and glorify them in the presence of our God and Lord Jesus Christ. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality. And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life; you should mind your own business and your own work, just as we told you. Brothers, do not want

ry. May he who hears so be blameless and Father Lord Jesus hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. For God did not appoint us

Homework - 2

Read or listen to 1 Thessalonians 1 every day, if possible. Read it in different translations, read it out loud, read it in different settings—at the beach, in your room, at work on your lunch break, etc. Do this homework in your time with the Lord the days that you are not doing the Spirit and the Word.

- I. *As you read, keep in mind the things that you learned last week. Remember that Paul's purpose in writing is driving what he writes—even his choice of words.*

If you didn't do this last week, mark any words that are repeated in Chapter 1. Begin to make a hypothesis for why he chooses to repeat these words.

What do you think is the point of chapter 1? How does it fit into what you discovered in the overview to be the purpose of the book?

- II. *As you read chapter 1, what does Paul remember thankfully about the Thessalonians?*

Think through people who have had an influence in your life spiritually. What would they be giving thanks for in your life?

Why is Paul convinced that God has "chosen" them?

What does it mean for the gospel to come in "word, power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction" (v. 5) in Paul's day and ours?

How did the gospel come to you?

Do people see in your life the evidence that the Word of God has come in power and that you have been noticeably transformed? In what ways do they see it?

III. One way to get a clearer picture of a concept is to see how it is talked about elsewhere in scripture (cross-referencing).

In verse 6, Paul remarks that the Thessalonians have become “imitators of us and of the Lord.” What else do you learn about being an imitator by reading these verses?

a. 1 Corinthians 4:16

b. 2 Thessalonians 3:7

c. Philippians 3:17

d. Philippians 4:9

e. 2 Timothy 3:10,11

What do you think it means to be an example or model for someone else? (feel free to use a dictionary)

Begin to think through how and where your life is a model or example for others, both believers and non-believers.

In what ways would you like to be a model or example for Christ this semester?

Pause now to ask God to help you be a good example for Him.

IV. Look at what Paul says about the Thessalonians in verse 8.

When you read that the message “rang out” from their lives, what do you think that means? What pictures does it bring to your mind?

John Stott in his study, Living in the End Times, comments, “The Greek word in verse eight for ‘rang out’ occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. It is derived from ēchos, an echo or noise. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, it was used of bells, zithers, trumpets and other loud noises.” The word used 1 Thessalonians is related to the noise of a resounding gong, the roaring sea, or a great thunder.

What does this imply about how the gospel message should “ring out” from our lives?

Through the Thessalonians “the Lord’s message rang out” in Macedonia and Achaia and beyond. Where are your spheres of influence where the Lord’s message can become known through your words and presence?

What message is now “ringing out” from the way you are living your life? How do people seem to react to that message?

Here at Michigan State, what have you noticed ringing out and sounding forth?

When you find yourself pausing in conversation for the noise around you, use this as a reminder to ask yourself, “What is ringing forth from my life right now?”

What could it look like if “the Lord’s message rang out from [us]” all over Michigan State?

V. In Thessalonica, the gods of Greek and Roman paganism were present in every area of life. Praying to idols was a normal part of their culture.

How would “turning from idols” have been an incredibly difficult thing for the Thessalonians to do?

What might be parallels for us today of turning away from the powers of this world to the one true God?

VI. Summary

What one truth stands out to you? How would believing this change the way you think/live? How can you reinforce this in your life this week? What action would you like to take as a result of what you've learned from 1 Thessalonians 1?

What things have you learned to help you look at Scripture more carefully?

What are some things that you can thank God for? **Take some time to thank the Lord right now.**

Contact and thank a person who proclaimed the gospel to you.