

**Sermon Series:** TULIP 2019

**Sermon Text:** 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

When the Gospel Comes in the Spirit's Power: Irresistible Grace

**Pastor:** Thus far the reading of God's Holy Word, and may God add His blessing to the reading of His Word.

**Congregation:** Thanks be to God!

**The Holy Spirit reveals God's chosen people by the effective application of the gospel producing their conversion.**

**1) The Spirit reveals God's eternal, gracious love for you (1:4).**

- a) "we know"—revealed or made known by the Spirit's work that is evident in their conversion
- b) "brothers loved by God"—Paternal love
  - i) compassionate—an unmerited pitying love
  - ii) affectionate—a cherishing love
- c) "that He has chosen you"—unconditional election
- d) **Application:**
  - i) If you're a believer be comforted by the Father's eternal love because His love for you is unchanging.
  - ii) If you're not a believer be encouraged by the Father's gracious character to seek His love.

**2) The Spirit reveals your election by the effective application of the gospel (1:5).**

- a) "the gospel came"—The gospel is an active agent.
- b) "in power and in the Holy Spirit"—Power at work in Paul and his companions to preach the gospel; and power at work in the Thessalonians to regenerate their souls (cf. 1 Pet. 1:22)
- c) "and with full conviction"—powerful conviction of the preacher(s); powerful conviction of the hearers; "compulsive conviction, irresistible conviction" (John Murray)
- d) **Application:**
  - i) Worship: Praise the Spirit for irresistibly persuading you.
  - ii) Witness: Proclaim the gospel with confidence in the Spirit's power.
  - iii) Walk: Put on humility, knowing your new life is all of grace.

**3) The Spirit reveals your election by producing conversion (1:9-10).**

- a) "you turned to God from idols"—repentance
  - i) Repentance is a turning of the mind (1:6 "you received the word"; cf. 2:13 "when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God").
  - ii) Repentance is a turning of the affections (1:6 "joy").
  - iii) Repentance is a turning of the whole soul ("you turned").
- b) "to serve the living and true God and to wait for His Son from heaven"—faith
  - i) 1:6 "you received the Word"—simple faith
  - ii) "to serve the living and true God"—lively faith (cf. 1:6 "you became imitators of us and of the Lord"; 1:7 "you became an example to all the believers")
  - iii) "to wait for His Son"—hope; faith in future grace
- c) **Application:**
  - i) Regeneration—the Spirit works in us while we are completely passive; calls for gratitude and praise
  - ii) Conversion—the Spirit works in us making us willing to repent and believe the gospel; calls for zeal to perfect repentance and faith
  - iii) Fruit of Conversion (of the Spirit)—the Spirit conforms our character to Christ to abound in service to God
    - (1) 1:3 "your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ"
    - (2) 1:6 "joy of the Holy Spirit"
    - (3) calls for zeal for Christlikeness and good works