

“The Evidence Of Election!”
1 Thessalonians 1:4-7

Introduction:

1. Return To 1 Thessalonians:
 - Last Week, We Saw How Paul Began His Letter To The Growing Church In The Busy City Of Thessalonica!
 - A Church He Started, By Preaching The Gospel There!
 - After Leaving Quickly, Because Of Certain Troublemakers:
 - Paul Writes This Letter:
 - Thinking About Them!
 - Thanking God For Them!
 - And Teaching Them!
 2. One Topic He Teaches About Is Found In Verse 4:
 - 1:4 - “Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God!”
 - He Teaches Them About Their “Election Of God!”
 - Which Means That God Chose Them To Become Part Of His Family!
 - Probably No Greater Comfort To This Young, Growing Church!
 - Their Pastor Had To Leave After Just Short Time!
 - They Were Being Persecuted By People Who Claimed To Love God – The Jews!
 - They Felt Like They Were Being Deserted!
 - But, In The Midst Of This, Paul Reminds Them Of This Great Truth!
 - You Have Been Chosen By God!
 - You Are Part Of God’s Elect!
 - You Are Safe & Secure In The Arms Of God!
 3. Frequently God Shows His People That They Can Feel Secure In Their Salvation!
 - 1 John 5:13 - “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God!”
 - God Also Calls On You To Make Sure Of Your Salvation & Election!
 - 2 Peter 1:10 - “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall!”
 - So, How Can You Know You Have Been Chosen By God?
 - So, How Can You Know You Have Eternal Life?
 - There Will Be Evidence / Proof Of Your Election!
 4. This Tuesday Is Election Day!
 - Important Locally This Year – Important Nationally Next Year!
 - This Kind Of Election Is Quite Different Than God’s Election!
 - But There Are Some Similarities!
 - Greenfield Mayor: Incumbent Democrat Mayor Rodney Fleming & Republican Brad DeReamer!
 - How Do You Know Who Is Going To Become The Next Mayor? There Will Be Evidence / Proof!
- * 1st – Proof That They Have Actually Been Elected By The People!
 - People Actually Have To Go To The Polls & Vote! The Election Has To Be Real! Only Then, The One With The Most Votes Wins!
- * The Only Way You Can Know If You Are Elect Is Through The Gospel!
 - 1:5 - “For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake!”
- * 1st Evidence Of Your Election:
1. ***The Reality Of The Gospel In Your Life!***
 - The Gospel Must Be Real In Your Life!
 - The Gospel Is In Focus In 1:5!
 - What Is The Gospel?
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 - “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; / By which also ye are saved, if ye keep

in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. / For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; / And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures!”

- What Is The Gospel?
 - Romans 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek!”
- How Does The Gospel Become Real In Your Life?
 - And Demonstrate That You Have Been Chosen By God?
- Through The Calling Power Of The Gospel!
 - “In Word!” – The Call To Believe!
 - It Did Come In Word!
 - It Did Not Come In Word Alone!
- Through The Convincing Power Of The Gospel!
 - “In Power!” – The Facts Of Belief!
 - A Life-Transforming, Mind-Altering Power!
 - According To Acts 17:4 - After Paul “Reasoned With Them Out Of The Scriptures . . . Some Of Them Believed!”
 - Their Minds Were Changed & Their Hearts Believed!
 - How A Person Answers The Question: “What Think Ye Of Christ?” (Matthew 22:42)
 - Shows If The Gospel Has Come Unto Them In Power Or Not!
- Through The Convicting Power Of The Gospel!
 - “In The Holy Ghost!” – The Reason For Belief!
 - God Alone Can Take What Is In The Mind & Plant It In The Heart!
- Through The Changing Power Of The Gospel!
 - “In Much Assurance!” – The Evidence Of Belief!
 - “A Full Wearing” – Like Putting On Many Layers Of Clothing!
 - Visible!
 - What Was “Worn” / Done On The Outside Demonstrated What The Word, The Power & The Holy Spirit Did On The Inside!
 - Also Seen In Acts 17!
 - They Joined Up & Had Fellowship With Paul!
 - Jason Even Gave “Security” For Paul – A Kind Of Bond – He “Put His Money Where His Faith Was!”
- The Power Of The Gospel Is A Powerful Evidence Of Your Election!
 - “Make Your Calling And Election Sure!”
 - What Has The Gospel Done In Your Life? Is It Real?
 - Have You Heard God’s Call Through His Word?
 - Are You Convinced In Your Mind About Jesus Christ?
 - Have You Been Convicted Of Your Sin & Your Need Of A Savior!
 - Has There Been A Change In Your Life?

* 2nd – Proof That They Have Accepted The Election Results!
-If They Concede, They Will Never Serve! Big Rallys!

* 2nd Evidence Of Your Election:

2. ***The Response To The Gospel In Your Life!***

- 1:6 - “And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost!”
- Another Key Evidence: Who You Follow!
 - “Follow” - Mimitai - Mimic - To Become Like / To Act Like!
 - Important Order – “Follow-The-Leader” Word Picture:
 - You — Us — The Lord!
 - Paul - 1 Corinthians 11:1 - “Be Ye Followers Of Me, Even As I Am Of Christ!”
 - Not Becoming A Clone!
 - But Wanting To Be Known As The Early Apostles Were Known: “They Took Knowledge Of Them, That They Had Been With Jesus!” (Acts 4:13 - Peter / John)

- Evidence: Being Christlike!
 - Especially In Your Response To The Gospel!
- Are You Receptive To The Word?
 - “Having Received The Word!”
 - To Receive Warmly & To Take Hold Of & Embrace! **IE:** Like The Welcome Of An Old Friend!
- Are You Resisted Because Of The Word?
 - “In Much Affliction!”
 - Shows What It Must Have Been Like In Thessalonica!
 - Where The Gospel Goes Forth With Power, There Will Be Opposition!
 - If This Is How People Respond To The Gospel In Your Life, It Is An Evidence Of What It Has Done In Your Life!
- Are You Rejoicing In The Word?
 - “With Joy Of The Holy Ghost!”
 - Joy – In The Middle Of Affliction!
 - This Is Unnatural!
 - It Is & Has To Be Supernatural! From The Holy Spirit!
 - Like Paul & Silas In Jail At Philippi!
 - Acts 16:25 - “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them!”
- Your Response To The Gospel Is An Evidence Of Your Election!
 - “Make Your Calling And Election Sure!”
 - How Have You Responded To The Gospel?
 - Are You Striving To Follow Christ – To “Mimic” Him – To Be Like Him?
 - By Being Receptive?
 - By Being Resisted?
 - By Rejoicing?

* 3rd – Proof - They Have To Serve!

- If They Never Show Up, How Can They Do Their Job?

* 3rd Evidence Of Your Election:

3. ***The Result From The Gospel In Your Life!***

- 1:7 - “So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia!”
 - First, Paul Called Them: “Followers!”
 - Now, Paul Calls Them: “Ensamples!”
 - Tupos – Types!
 - This Is Discipleship!
 - Transition From Just A Follower To A Follower & An Example! This Is What You Need To Be!
 - 1 Timothy 4:12 - “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity!”
 - Tupos - A Figure Formed By A Blow Or Impression!
 - **IE:** Like How A Coin Is Made! “Struck!”
 - The Gospel In Your Life Will Make A Big Impact On Others!
- The Impact Will Be Faithful!
 - “To All That Believe!”
 - A Pattern Worthy To Be Followed!
 - Is Your’s?
 - To Your Spouse / Children / Grandchildren?
 - Would You Want Someone To Follow Your Example As A Christian?
 - Believe It Or Not, Many Will!
 - Will Your Impact Be Faithful?
- The Impact Will Be Far-Reaching!
 - “In Macedonia And Achaia!”
 - In About 1 Year, Their Faith Was Not Just Heard About Throughout Greece – But Was An

- Example Being Followed!
- Will Your Impact Be Far-Reaching?
- Often, The Impact Will Be Fast!
- This Is The Result Of Christ-Centered Christians Being Revived By The Holy Spirit!
 - Realizing The Impact God Can Make Through The Gospel In Them!
 - Is Your Impact Fast?
- The Results From The Gospel Is An Evidence Of Your Election!
- “Make Your Calling And Election Sure!”
 - Consider The Impact Your Faith & Life As A Christian Is Making!

Conclusion:

1. One Of The Greatest Comforts To Christians Is Election!
 - When You Feel Deserted By Everyone Else – You Can Know That You Have Been Chosen By God & Secure In Christ!
 - You Can Know!
 - Examine The Evidences Of Election In Your Life!
 - “Make Your Calling And Election Sure!”
 - Are They There?
 - Have You Experienced The Life-Changing Power Of The Gospel?
 - Are You Responding To The Gospel, By Following After Jesus & Becoming More & More Like Him?
 - Are You Making An Impact Through The Gospel?
2. If You Are A Genuine Christian:
 - There Will Be Evidence!
 - Is There Evidence Of Your Election?

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