

Sermon Notes

1 Thessalonians 1: 5 - 10

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- Read 1 Thess 1: 2 - 10
 - Last Week
 - Paul thanked God for the Thessalonian's
 - Work of faith
 - Labor of love
 - Steadfastness of hope
 - Giving evidence of the electing grace of God in the lives of believers
 - These are things the Apostle Paul remembered about his brief time in Thessalonica
 - But how do you know they were elect – no one can know the mind of God
 - “Thanks for asking, let me tell you!”

I. How did the Gospel Come to the Thessalonians?

- Read Acts 17: 1 – 4
 - I preached the gospel to the Jews 1st
 - Every Sabbath
 - Theologically called the
 - General Call
 - Gospel Call
 - Outward Call
 - Paul's Evangelistic content
 - “I reasoned with them” (Acts 17:2)
 - “I opened the scriptures and explained them to all those hearing me
 - Lydia (Acts 16) – the Lord opened her heart
 - Emmaus Road – Jesus opened the scriptures to them
 - Emmaus Road – their eyes were opened
 - “I gave evidence about Jesus as the fulfilling Messiah”
 - “I proclaimed Him as the Messiah”
 - The results
 - Some were persuaded, but some (Jews) were angry
 - For some – there was no effect
 - This is what the text means by the Gospel coming in **word only**
- Why was there wonderful effect for some and zero effect (even negative) for others
 - Answer – It did **not** come to you in **word only**
 - For you (Thessalonian believers) – things were different
 - For you
 - The Gospel came in power
 - The gospel came in the Holy Spirit
 - The gospel came with full conviction (KJV – full assurance)
 - Acts 17 – some Jews but many Gentiles and not a few women
 - Theologically, this is called the **Effectual Call**
 - It is the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of God's People
 - It is the power of God unto Salvation (Rom 1:17)
 - It is the evidence of the New Birth (John 3)
 - As hymn writer, Charles Wesley, wrote in a song we love to sing: