

# 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 1<sup>st</sup>
    - 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: