

## WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY

### The I Thessalonians Series #2

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**TEXT:** I Thessalonians 1:1-10

**CONSIDER THIS:** We have a God Who changes the people He saves. Whatever you once were when you lived without Him, you no longer are. Thank the Lord! You are not yet what you will one day become, but you shall see Him as He is and you will be changed. Lord, come quickly! Not what we once were, not yet what we will become ... but His mighty power is at work even now. Let us live **WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY.**

**REVIEW/BACKGROUND:** The Thessalonian church was still in its “infancy” stage when it received this letter from Paul. The gospel had been preached in Thessalonica for the first time by Paul just over a year earlier. Several Jews and Gentiles had become Christians even though they faced intense opposition and persecution (Acts 17:1-10). Paul had spent perhaps 4-5 months in Thessalonica before he was forced to leave the city. He had been gone 6-9 months and had never stopped praying for this brand new church and he was daily filled with concern, not knowing how they were faring. Now, while in Corinth, Paul received an eyewitness report from Timothy who had just returned from a trip to Thessalonica. Wonderful news! The Thessalonians, despite intense suffering, had been marvelously changed by God and they were **WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY.**

### GOD’S WORD TEACHES US ...

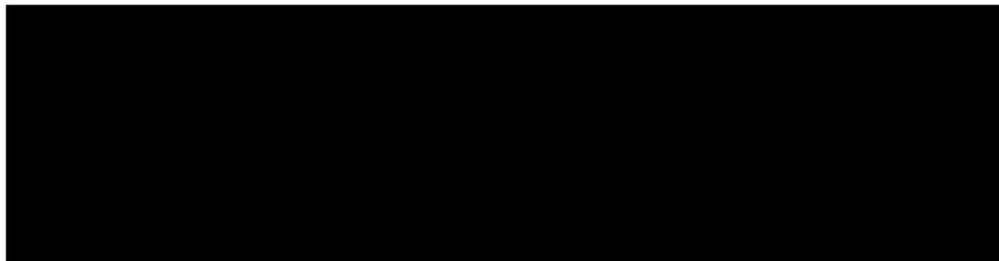
#### I PAUL’S INTENSE CONCERN

- A) We only understand the full significance of the first chapter of this letter when we recognize Paul’s concern for the Thessalonians as expressed in 2:1; 2:17 – 3:8. It is as though Paul had just become the father of a newborn child **and** then been immediately deployed elsewhere **and** had received no news for months **and** knew of many dangers where the child lived, **and**, other than prayer, could do nothing for his child.
- B) Paul wrote this letter as a “substitute” for his physical presence with the Thessalonian church (3:9-11).

If Paul had not been forced to leave Thessalonica he never would have needed to write this letter to them – a letter that God inspired (it is His Word given through Paul) and that God has used to instruct and encourage Christians for 2,000 years. Christian, never doubt God’s ability and His willingness to bring blessing out of painful moments that seem to serve no good purpose.

## II PAUL'S JOY

- A) I Thessalonians 1:2-10 is Paul's summary of the report he had received about the Thessalonian Christians from Timothy. He was filled with gratitude and joy. There is much here for us to consider.
- B) Here is the blueprint for Grace Community Church:
1. (Verses 2-3) ... Work produced by faith, labor prompted by love, endurance inspired by hope.
  2. (Verses 4-5) ... God's Word received in power and with conviction.
  3. (Verses 5-6) ... Evidence of the Holy Spirit is:
    - a) Hunger for Word
    - b) Character transformation which reflects and imitates Christ
    - c) Joy!



4. (Verse 7) ... Be the fifth gospel = Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and **YOU**. If the world's only information about Jesus came from watching you, what would they think of Jesus? If a new Christian's only knowledge of living the Christian life came from imitating your life, how would he/she live?

## III AND NOW, REVIVE FAYETTE COUNTY

Verse 8 applied to us =  
*"The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Ohio and the Midwest,  
your faith in God has become known everywhere."*

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