

**WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**  
**The I Thessalonians Series #1**  
January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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

**CONSIDER THIS:** Imagine the excitement that rippled through the Thessalonian church as they gathered the first Sunday after Paul's letter to them arrived (see I Thessalonians 5:27). They listened with rapt attention as the Elder(s) read the letter aloud. These Christians, though young in the faith, had a hunger for God's Word (including the teaching of the Apostles = 2:13). They had given up much and they had already endured much in order to be followers of Christ, but they were all in, 100%, holding nothing back, for no matter what they had given up they had gained infinitely more! Now, with eager hearts, they were about to learn more about what it means to **WALK OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY**. Grace Community Church, let's do the same!

**BACKGROUND:** The Thessalonian Church's founding is recorded in Acts 17:1-10. It was an exciting start, for the explosive power of the gospel was on full display. It was also a time of persecution and conflict, for those opposed to the gospel and opposed to the Apostle Paul made things difficult for these brand new Christians. Would these young believers be able to withstand the persecution and endure in the faith? These were Paul's concerns and they had weighed heavily upon him in the 6-9 months since he had been driven out of Thessalonica. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians while he was in Corinth, having just received a report from Timothy that the Thessalonian Christians were standing strong and walking out their faith (I Thessalonians 3:5-7). This letter to the church in Thessalonica has instructed and inspired Christians for almost 2000 years.

**GOD'S WORD TEACHES US ...**

**I THE GENUINE CHRISTIAN LIFE (1:2-3)**

- A) "Thank You God!" Paul was thankful to God for His work in the lives of the Thessalonians. Paul's love for them was rooted in his investment in their lives and his own commitment to following Jesus (see 2:11-12). Paul was the rare individual who was stirred by the "big picture" (God's Kingdom) yet cared about each individual (2:8).
- B) The Thessalonians were hitting the bullseye in their walking out the Christian life.
  - 1. **Work produced by faith** (the fruit of transformed lives = Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:12-13). Genuine faith gives birth to righteous works.
  - 2. **Labor prompted by love.** God so powerfully works in the hearts of His people that they display His love (I Peter 1:22-23).
  - 3. **Endurance inspired by hope.** Even intense persecution and opposition did not stop them from walking/living out the Word of God.

**KEY:** "Hope" is a technical term not to be confused by modern usage which makes hope a synonym of "wish". Biblical hope is the confidence in the absolute certainty that Jesus Christ is returning for His people and that He has won the victory (see Titus 2:13-14). This hope inspired the Thessalonians to endure .

Christian, make it your goal to have a faith that produces works, a love that serves others and the hope that inspires you to totally sell out for Jesus Christ.

## II HE HAS CHOSEN YOU (1:4)

- A) "Loved by God". Who among us can honestly wrap his/her mind around this glorious truth? I cannot explain it to you, but my prayer for Grace Community Church is Ephesians 3:17b-19.
- B) "Chosen" is the word "elect". For those whom God has chosen, the gospel message will be believed, embraced, and lived out.
1. It is God's choice (John 15:16; II Timothy 1:9; Romans 9:10-12).
  2. Before you were born (Jeremiah 1:4-5; Ephesians 1:4-5)
  3. God initiates our salvation (Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:29-30).
  4. It produces fruit in the lives of the elect (I Thessalonians 1:5)
- C) What motivates us to passionately follow Christ? Knowing that He has saved us! He loves us! He has chosen us! He is returning for us! This is why true Christians want to walk out His Word each day.

## III GET PREPARED! BE PREPARED! STAY PREPARED!

- A) Paul's teaching ministry always included eschatology (last things). See Acts 17:31; 19:8; 24:25; II Thessalonians 2:3-5.
- B) The future return of Jesus Christ is one of the central themes of both Thessalonian letters and it was a major influence on the priorities and lifestyles of the Thessalonian Christians. They viewed life as a preparation for Christ's return (1:10; 3:11-13). **It should have the same impact** upon our priorities and lifestyles. And remember, it is about HOPE.

**You are redeemed.  
You are loved.  
You are chosen.  
You will see Him.  
You will be with Him forever.**

Now is the time to live for Him and to walk out His Word every day.