

Class: NT615 Exegetical

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Subject: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Greetings

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you^{1a} from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

From the greeting, the letter shows its personal care with the pronoun you, and your, which appears in this text about fourteen times and in chapter two about twenty-two times. (As indicated in purple)

The author is Paul, accompanied by his companions Silvanus, and Timothy. The recipient is the Church at Thessalonica. There is a consistent descriptive phrase, (shaded in yellow) this descriptive phrase is consistent with some of Paul's other letters. 1. Cor. 1:1, Philippians 1:1, and 2.Tim. 1:1, the encouragement from the greeting is showing them God is aware of their situation, and Paul is indicating his care for them. This is further demonstrated in 1 Thess. 3:1-2

Steadfast Faith

² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father. The report from Timothy reinforces the statement of their love and faith 1Thess. 3: 6,

If there's a rhetorical feature in this text its in verse three, where the saint are asked to remember (call to mind) without ceasing, their faith, and love, and patience of hope. Verse 9 of chapter 2, ask them to remember.

Their steadfast faith has turned out to be a godly example. (As indicated in the red)

Their Good Example

, ⁴ knowing, **beloved brethren, your election by God.** ⁵ For our gospel did not come to **you** in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as **you** know what kind of men, we were among **you** for **your** sake.

Some of the significance words are, **election**, John R.W. Stott stated, we are elected because God loves us, and **faith** produces works, by **the power of the Holy Spirit**, who allowed them to receive the **word**, and became examples. The word gospel in Verse 5, is the Greek word **euangelion**, meaning to evangelize or good news according to Strong's concordance. This is interesting, showing Paul had in mind evangelizing early in his ministry,

⁶ **And you** became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ **so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.** ⁸ For from **you** the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. **Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.**

In his commentary on 1Thess. John R.W. Stott, stated, there was a Jewish synagogue at Thessalonica and Paul preached there for three sabbaths. During this time a large number of gentiles God-fearers and a few prominent women accepted the message, Paul and his companions stayed there for several months, then opposition arise, Jason's house was attacked, he and some believers were taken to the magistrates. They were accused of defying Caesar's decree, saying there is another king. This is showing how they received the word in much affliction, and his commendation to them in Verse 9, that they turn to God from idols to serving the living and true God.

Transformed Life

⁹ For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to **you**, and **how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,** ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

The saints had an assurance of this comforting hope in chapter 4: 13-18. The flow of thought in this section of the letter showed a close relationship, with the greetings, the purpose for the letter, the solution for their problem is in God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ, addressing how they received the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the future results. The encouragement continued in chapter 2:11-12, 3:6-8, 11-13, 4:13-18, and the encouraging closing exhortation 5: 14-28.

In one of the outline given by Stott, he shared; the gospel came to the Thessalonians, in words, with power, and deep conviction, with the Holy Spirit, they welcomed the message, in the midst of suffering, with joy in the Holy Spirit, and became imitators of Paul and his companions, and of God, resulting in being models in Macedonia ,and Achaia, with the Lord's message ringing out from them.