

The Evidence of New Life

1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

Introduction

I The Assurance of Salvation

A. Paul affirmed that they were:

1. **Loved** by God - Rom 1:7; Col 3:12; 2 Thess 2:13
2. **Chosen** by God - Eph 1:4-6, 11; Col 3:12; 2 Thess 2:13

B. Paul assured them because the gospel came to them:

1. With words - Heb 4:12; Rom 10:14-15
2. With **power** - Rom 1:16; 1 Cor 4:20
3. With the Holy Spirit - 1 Cor 2:4-5
4. With deep **conviction** - 2 Peter 1:1-11

II The Imitation of Paul's Faith

A. Paul reminded them of his **example** - Acts 20:17-21

B. Paul encouraged them because:

1. They became **imitators**:
 - a. Of Paul - 1 Cor 4:16; 11:1; Phil 3:17; 4:9
 - b. Of the Lord - Luke 9:23-24; Rom 8:29
2. They welcomed the message with joy: - 1 Thess 2:13
 - a. In spite of severe **suffering** - 2 Thess 1:4
 - b. With **joy** given by the Holy Spirit - Rom 5:1-5; James 1:2-4
3. They became a **model** to all the believers:
 - a. In Macedonia
 - b. In Achaia - Eph 5:1; 1 Cor 11:1; 1 Tim 4:12; 1 Peter 5:3; 2 Thess 3:9

III The Influence of a Transformed Life

A. The Lord's **message** rang out from them:

1. In Macedonia
2. In Achaia

B. Their **faith** in God had become known everywhere Rom 1:8

C. Their **reputation** was well known because of:

1. The kind of reception they gave Paul
2. How they **turned** to God from idols

- a. To serve the living and true God - Acts 3:19-20
3. How they were **waiting** for his Son: - Acts 1:11; Jam 5:8
 - a. Whom God raised from the dead - 1 Cor 15:3-4
 - b. Who **rescues** us from the coming wrath - 2Thes 4:17

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. What has been the most significant transformation that you've noticed in your life since coming to Christ?
2. What impact does it have on you to know that you are loved and chosen by God? Is it hard for you to accept?
3. What specific evidences of a transformed life did Paul identify in the Thessalonian church? Do you see these in our fellowship? Are they evident in your life?
4. Paul says a lot about modeling in this passage:
 - a. What character qualities, spiritual disciplines, attitudes and actions would mark the life of a Christian leader you would be excited about imitating?
 - b. Who are you modeling your life after?
 - c. Whom are you intentionally modeling for?
5. What are best known for among your friends and family? Are you satisfied with that? If not, what steps will you take?
6. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your level of expectancy as it relates to the return of Christ? How does that impact your values, goals and daily activities?
7. Take time to reevaluate your Christian life based on the characteristics of a leader you would want to emulate. What areas in your Christian life need to change for you to be a reliable model of Christ to others?

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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