

1 THESSALONIANS CHAPTER ONE

Verses 5-10

December 18, 2023

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

MODEL CHRISTIANS

I. THEY WERE CONVERTED (VS 5)

- They were saved by the **power** of the gospel when it was preached by the apostles (Vs 5).
 - **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”** (Rom 10:17).
 - When they received Christ, He gave them power to become the sons of God (Jn 1:12).
- They were not saved by their good works (Titus 3:5, Eph. 2:8-9).
- They left the broad road that leads to destruction and entered the narrow road that leads to life (Mat 7:13-14).
- They entered through the narrow gate; through Jesus Christ, the door of the sheepfold (Jn 10:1-4).
- Their salvation came with “much assurance” (vs 5). There was no doubt about their salvation.
 - God wants you to trust his word and be certain of your salvation (Eph. 4:14, Php 1:6). If you have doubts, remember that God is greater than your heart (1 Jn 3:20).
 - **Deut. 28:66** is the testimony of an Old Testament Hebrew under the Law who doesn’t have assurance of eternal life. They don’t believe salvation is forever.
 - This is also the testimony of every professing Christian today who believes they can lose their salvation. They doubt, they fear day and night, and they have no assurance.
 - If you are trusting your own good deeds for your salvation, you should fear.
 - If you’re trusting Jesus Christ, you’ve no reason to fear hell (Jn 10:28, **Eccl 3:14**).

II. THEY BECAME FOLLOWERS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (VS 6)

- A true believer loves to read the bible, fellowship with other believers, and do things that they hope will please the Lord.
 - Jesus said His sheep WILL follow Him (Jn 10:27). His followers will walk in the light as He is in the light (1 Jn 1:7).
- **“Ye became followers of US—and of the Lord.”** God knows our weakness. We may forget to follow the Lord. That is why it helps to have someone in our life who is a good example. We can follow them as THEY follow the Lord. Then, we’ll be following the Lord also.
 - This also speaks of the importance to go to church and be in fellowship with people who want to follow Jesus.
 - People who don’t think they need church will never do anything for God.
 - They think they’re okay as long as they’re better than the world (the lowest standard).
 - You will quickly grow cold on God if you don’t find a preacher and a church that is hot.

- **How can you know if a man is following the Lord? Hebrews 13:7**
 - He speaks the word of God. Not stories, opinions, dogmas, or convictions.
 - **...whose faith follow...** He believes in the power of God, the working of God, and trusts the Lord. He must believe what he preaches.
 - **...considering the end of *their* conversation.** Observe his life, his marriage, his family, his finances, his ministry. Does it reveal that God is blessing the works of his hands?
 - **Heb 13:17** They watch for your soul. Their aim is to ensure that you get a full reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

III. THEY WERE ENSAMPLES TO OTHER BELIEVERS (Vs 7)

- Paul could point to this church and tell other churches to follow their example because they were living a proper Christian life.
 - This applies to individuals as well. We ought to be able to point to anyone in our church and tell a new believer to follow their example.

IV. THEY SOUNDED OUT THE WORD OF THE LORD (Vs 8)

- They fulfilled Christ's declaration in Acts 1:8. They witnessed in their hometown, then they moved outward to the next town, and finally were found witnessing "**in every place.**" This was a missionary church.
- A model Christian is a witnessing Christian; one who exercises every method they can to get the gospel to the lost.

V. THEY TURNED FROM SERVING IDOLS (Vs 9)

- You will never succeed in serving God if you refuse to leave your idols behind.
- Are you still spending much of your time on worldly things? The time you spend there, will subtract from what you can do for God.
- **Joshua 24:14-23.** The Israelites had to be reminded to **put away the gods** of the Egyptians.
 - "**Choose you this day whom ye will serve...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD**" (vs 15).
 - "**Ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is an holy God.**" (vs 19). If you are still trying to fit in with the world, God will not accept your service.
 - Christians are to be "a peculiar people" (Titus 2:14, 1 Peter 2:9). It should not surprise someone when you tell them you're a Christian.
 - Christians do not cling to their old religious practices and trinkets. They put them away.
 - What have you given up for Jesus? If you're holding onto something that you suspect you ought to give up, you are an idolator.

VI. THEY WAITED FOR JESUS (Vs 10) They were looking forward to His return and watched for it.

- Christians often get focused on their life's goals (graduations, marriages, retirement, etc.) and lose sight of the Lord's coming. In fact, they would rather He didn't come now.
 - If you don't want Jesus to come, you're not a model Christian. You are lacking one or more of these traits that the Thessalonian believers had.