

“The Sound Of The Gospel!”
1 Thessalonians 1:8-10

Introduction:

1. As We Return To 1 Thessalonians, We Are Reminded That Paul Is Writing To A Young Church, That He Helped Start, That Is Facing Opposition & “Much Affliction!” (1:6)
 - But, Even Through This Persecution, The Report That Paul Received Is That The Church Is Growing & Thriving!
 - Paul Is Encouraged That The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Has Demonstrated Its Power In Their Lives – Even Without Him Being There!
 - So, Paul Encourages Them!
 - By Writing This Letter!
2. Last Week, We Saw How Paul Explained What He Saw In Their Lives:
 - The Evidence Of Their Election!
 - Powerful Proof That The Gospel Did Come To Them & Saved Them From Their Sin!
 - One Part Of That Evidence Is The Impact That Their Changed Lives, Through The Gospel, Made Throughout Greece!
 - 1:7 - “So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia!”
3. But, Their Example Did Not Stop There!
 - As We See In 1:8-10! Read Passage!
 - Their Example Was So Powerful – That:
 - “The Word Of The Lord”
 - And Their “Faith Toward God”
 - Spread Far Beyond Their Own Country – Even Beyond The Church! Just About Everyone In Just About Every Place Heard About What The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Did In The City Of Thessalonica!
 - The Gospel Went Out!
 - Through The Testimony About Their Faith In God’s Word!
 - Through The Example Of Their Faith In God’s Word!
4. How Did This Happen?
 - Key Reason: Their Response To The Word Of God & The Gospel!
 - They Were Not Ashamed!
 - As Paul Stated & Demonstrated - Romans 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth!”
 - There Was A Church That Was Not Ashamed Of The Gospel Of Christ!
 - Not Ashamed Of What The Gospel Says!
 - Not Ashamed Of What The Gospel Does!
 - Are We Ashamed Of The Gospel Of Christ? Are You?
5. You Will Not Be Ashamed – You Will Follow The Example Of The Thessalonian Church – When You See That:
 1. ***The Sound Of The Gospel Is Powerful!***
 - 1:8a - “For from you sounded out the word of the Lord!”
 - The Word Of God Itself!
 - As Well As The Works Of God!
 - “Sounded Out” From The Church In Thessalonica!
 - “Sounded Out”
 - From Eichomai - Echo!
 - **IE:** Like The Power Of An Amplifier, Which Increases & Intensifies The Power & The Volume Of Words Being Spoken & Songs Being Sung!
 - Before Modern Sound Systems, Churches & Public Meeting Rooms Had A “Sounding Board!”
 - That Would Reflect The Sound Waves Into The Audience, So They Could Hear!
 - This Is What The Gospel Does!

- When The “Word Of The Lord” “Sounds Out”:
 - It Tells Of The Powerful Results That God’s Word Has Upon God’s People!
 - Its More Powerful Than The Words Of Men!
 - Paul Realized The Importance Of This!
 - 1 Corinthians 2:4 - “And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power!”
 - It Will Spread Like A Wild-Fire!
 - Like The Recent Fires In California! Driven By Strong Winds!
- This Is Why We Don’t Need To Be Ashamed Of The Gospel!
 - Because Its Message / Its Sound Is Powerful!
 - And When Its Power Is Shown In Your Life, Its Power Amplified & Intensified Into The World Around You!
 - Are You Ashamed Of The Gospel Of Christ?

* You Will Not Be Ashamed – Continuing To Follow The Example Of The Thessalonian Church – When You See That:

2. ***The Sound Of The Gospel Is Pervasive!***

- 1:8b - “Not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad!”
 - Their “Faith Toward God” – Directed Toward Him & Him Alone – Was Also “Spread Abroad!”
- “Spread Abroad” – Means The Gospel Message Was Pervasive!
 - It Spread Through Macedonia!
 - It Spread Throughout Achaia!
 - It Spread To “Every Place!”
 - Like The Power Of A Loud-Speaker!
 - It Spreads The Amplified Sound Out As Far As Possible! Like The Loud-Speaker We Sat Right In Front Of At The Air Show Last Summer! Heard Loud & Clear – Pretty Much Anywhere We Went!
- When “Your Faith To God” Is “Spread Abroad”:
 - It Reveals The Effect Of The Gospel In Your Life!
 - “Your Faith!”
 - Romans 10:17 - “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God!”
 - When The Gospel Has Impacted Your Faith – Then, And Only Then, Will You See Your Faith Impact Others!
 - It Reveals The Direction Of The Gospel In Your Life!
 - The Direction Of Your Faith Is “To God-Ward”!
 - Its Not Toward Yourself / Church / The World!
 - Its Toward God! **IE:** Like Megaphone Direction!
 - When The Gospel Directs Your Faith – Toward God & God Alone – Then, And Only Then, Will You See Your Faith Impact Others!
 - And What An Impact Their Faith Made!
 - It Was “Spread Abroad!”
 - Like The Spreading Of Seed In A Field!
- This Is Why We Don’t Need To Be Ashamed Of The Gospel!
 - Because Its Message / Its Sound Is Pervasive!
 - And When It Is “Spread Abroad” Through Your Life, Its Effects Will Be Wide-Spread!
 - Are You Ashamed Of The Gospel Of Christ?

* You Will Not Be Ashamed – When You See That:

3. ***The Sound Of The Gospel Is Persuasive!***

- 1:8c-9a - “So that we need not to speak any thing. / 9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you!”
 - Because The Message Of The Gospel, As Shown In Their Own Lives, Was Powerful &

- Pervasive, It Was Also Very Persuasive! It Was “Loud & Clear!” **IE:** Louder Than Anything Else
- Air Show - Knew What Was Going On!
- Paul Says: “We Need Not To Speak Anything!”
 - About What The Gospel Did In Their Lives!
 - Even Though, I’m Sure, He Wanted To!
 - Wherever He Would Go, Others Would Tell Him About The Thessalonian Church Before He Could!
 - The Focus Was Not On How Great The Thessalonians Were! But On How Great The Gospel Is!
- Paul Says: “They Themselves Shew Of Us What Manner Of Entering In We Had Unto You!”
 - Their Testimony & Example Of The Gospel Showed How Paul, Silas & Timothy Brought The Gospel!
 - 2:7 - “But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children!”
 - It Wasn’t Paul’s Power & Fervency – It Was The Power Of The Gospel Of Christ!
- This Is Why We Don’t Need To Be Ashamed Of The Gospel!
 - Because Its Message / Its Sound Is Persuasive!
 - Far More Persuasive Than Our Own Words & Apologetics!
 - This Is Why The Word Of God Is The Basis Of Our Witness! Not Our System - Not Our Outline - Not Our Words!
 - Don’t Be Ashamed Of The Gospel!

* Because:

4. *The Sound Of The Gospel Has A Purpose!*

- 9:b-10 - “ And how ye 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, which delivered us from the wrath to come!”
 - God Has A Reason / Purpose For The Gospel!
 - This Is Why We Don’t Need To Be Ashamed! Because It Is “The Power Of God **Unto Salvation!**”
- It Brings Men To Repentance!
 - Turning “To God From Idols To Serve The Living And True God!”
 - The Thessalonians Were Heathens / Idolaters!
 - And They Were Lost!
 - Without The Gospel They Were Worshiping & Serving:
 - Dead Gods!
 - Fake Gods!
 - But, When The Gospel Came, A Definite Change Was Made!
 - This Is The Purpose Of The Gospel!
 - A Turning From The Gods Of This World, Unto The One “Living And True God!”
 - Has This Happened To You? Is This Happening To Others?
- It Brings Men To Readiness!
 - “To Wait For His Son From Heaven!”
 - First Mention Of The Lord’s Coming In This Letter!
 - Jesus Christ Is Coming Again!
 - Apart From The Gospel, Noone Is Ready!
 - If You Are Not Ready, You Will Experience “The Wrath To Come!”
 - But, When The Gospel Came, A Definite Hope Was Given!
 - This Is The Purpose Of The Gospel!
 - To Make You Ready For The Coming Of The Lord!
- This Is Why We Don’t Need To Be Ashamed Of The Gospel!
 - Because Its Message Is Given For A Purpose!
 - It Will Make You Ready For God!
 - Are You Ready For Him?
 - Are You Worshiping And Serving Him?
 - Are You Waiting For Him?

Conclusion:

1. The Message Of The Gospel Completely Changed The Lives Of The Thessalonian Christians!
 - And Because Of This Change, They Experienced & Became An Example Of Its Power!
 - And They Were Not Ashamed!
2. Have You Experienced The Power Of The Gospel?
 - Has It Changed Your Life? (By Turning Your Heart To God?)
 - Are You An Example Of The Power Of The Gospel?
 - Has It Changed Your Focus? (By Waiting For His Coming?)
 - Only Then Will, Through Your Witness, The Gospel “Sound Forth” Its Power, Pervasiveness, Persuasiveness & Purpose!
 - Like A Siren!
3. Don’t Be Ashamed Of The Gospel Of Christ!
 - “For It Is The Power Of God Unto Salvation To Everyone That Believeth!” (Romans 1:16)

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