

Has the Gospel Come Here?

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

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

Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Sermon Outline:

- I. Established by the Gospel
- II. Secured through the Gospel
- III. An Amplifier of the Gospel

Discussion Questions

1. How does adding “in Christ” to the “work of faith,” the “labor of love,” and the “steadfastness of hope” evident in the believers in the church at Thessalonica change them from a work we do to a work Christ does in us?

2. How does the dual reality of our being sinful, messed up people but also chosen and loved people give us security in Christ?

3. What message does your life and your words “sound forth”?

Going Deeper

1. Write down or share with your group your personal testimony of coming to know Christ. If you don't have a personal testimony about coming to know Christ, who can you talk to in order to understand what the gospel is and what it means for your life?
2. Do you tend to go to church, work, etc. with the intention of sounding forth a message about your own competency or about how you have been established and secured by the gospel? How does the gospel give you the freedom to be honest about your sin but also about Jesus' righteousness on your behalf?