Lesson 3

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Day 1: The Message Preached (v. 5)

1. Paul mentions "our gospel" which simply means "good news we preach." There is much confusion around the gospel today. In 60 seconds or less, give a brief explanation of the gospel. Write out your gospel presentation.

a. Pray for the Lord to provide opportunities for you to share this wondrous news. Write down the names of people you shared the gospel with or desire to share it with so you can remember to pray for them.

2. What are the things Paul would have emphasized in his preaching of the gospel? See John 3:3-16; Romans 1:16,10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:1-10.

a. Looking at your gospel presentation, have you made the death and resurrection of "first importance"?

b. What are the consequences of distorting the gospel? See Galatians 1:6-9.

3. What 4 things do you notice about Paul's gospel?

a. Are these 4 areas evident in your gospel proclamation?

4. Why does Paul emphasis the character of the men who preached the gospel to the Thessalonians?

a. What kind of men did they prove to be? See 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

b. Does your life match the message you proclaim? What areas do you need to grow in?

Day 2: The Message Received (v. 6)

1. Who did the Thessalonians imitate? Why was it possible for them to become imitators?

2. In discipleship whom should we imitate? See 1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1; Ephesians 5:1; Hebrews 6:12.

a. Can you say with Paul "imitate me as I imitate Christ"? Are there areas that are not worthy of imitation in your life? Take time to evaluate these and bring them before the Lord in repentance and prayer.

3. How did the Thessalonians receive the Word? Read Acts 17:5-10 and 1 Thessalonians 2:14 to see why their reception was worthy of imitation.

a. Should Christians expect tribulation? Why or why not? Use Scripture to support your answer.

b. What are some of the purposes of affliction?

4. What is the source of joy in the life of a believer?

a. How does the joy of a Christian differ from the world's version of joy?

Day 3: The Message's Work (vs. 7-8)

1. What was the result of the Thessalonians' reception of the word? Who did their reception impact?

a. Who does your example impact?

2. What does Scripture say about being an example? See Philippians 3:17; 1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:7.

a. What is at stake if we aren't living by following the godly example of others and being an example in discipleship? See Titus 2:5.

3. In vs. 2-3, what areas are we to imitate in the life of Paul and the Thessalonians? Also see 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; 4:1-10.

4. In verse 8 what was the "word of the Lord" doing?

a. Thessalonika was in the centre of the political and trade hub. How would this have benefited the word sounding forth from them?

b. Is your gospel making noise? Are you being faithful to share Christ? What can you do to be more faithful in this area?

5. Was Paul telling others of the Thessalonians' faithfulness? Why or why not?

Day 4: The Message and Repentance (v. 9)

1. What message was Paul hearing as he traveled to other parts of Macedonia?

a. What is the evidence that Paul's message was received?

2. What are the two parts of true repentance?

a. What did the Thessalonians stop doing?

b. What did they start doing?

3. What contrast does Paul make between idols and God?

4. "An idol is anything, any attitude, any belief, or any god that so captures a person's attention and allegiance that God does not have pre-eminence." - Richard Mayhuea. Why are idols so appealing to us?

b. Where does idolatry start? See Ezekiel 14:3-4.

c. How does God view idolatry? What does He command you do when idolatry takes over your heart? See Ezekiel 14:6.

5. Why are idols futile? See Psalm 115:4-8.

6. What does the Living and True God give to us? See John 6:47-51.

7. Are there idols you need to put off in your life so that you may serve the Living and True God? If so, what will you do to change that?

Day 5: The Message and Expectation (v. 10)

1. What are the Thessalonians doing in v. 10?

a. Who were they waiting for?

b. Is this evident in your own life?

2. How are we to wait for the second coming of Christ? See 1 Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 9:28.

a. Are your thoughts filled with the coming of Christ? How do you think keeping His coming on our mind and heart will change your daily living?

3. Who raised Jesus from the dead?

4. What is the wrath to come? See Revelation 11:17; 19:15; 20:14-15.

a. How does Jesus rescue us from the wrath to come?

b. What are the consequences of those who reject Christ? See Romans 2:4-6.

Dig Deeper

- 1. Spend 60 seconds each day reciting the gospel.
- 2. Read through Chapel Library's booklet on Idolatry: <u>https://www.chapellibrary.org/book/idolfg/idolatry</u>

3. Look up the following verses about the coming of Christ. What do you observe about His coming from each? See 1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 8; James 5:8; Revelation 1:7; 3:11. (Lisa Hughes)

4. Read Revelation 21-22. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for what awaits those found in Christ.

5. Each of the "I AM" statements in John point to a "living" aspect of God. Read and write out each statement to show how God is both living and the source of life.