

A Real Work of God (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)

- Thessalonica: an important city of the Roman province of Macedonia
- Paul & Co. were in Thessalonica for at least 3 sabbaths, likely longer
- Paul was charged with preaching a subversive message (Acts 17:5-8)
- Paul has to leave the city to Athens under cover of darkness (Acts 17:15)

I. Paul's Confidence of a Genuine Work of God in Their lives

- Vs 4. "Knowing, brethren, that you are chosen by God"
- Vs 5 Gospel came not only in word, in power, conviction of Holy Spirit
- Vs 3 this power was displayed in their faith, hope and love
- vv 6,7 followed the Lord in affliction, joy of the Spirit, became examples

II. Turning from Idols to Serve the Living and True God

- vv 9, 10 a summary report of how the Thessalonians turned from idols
- Idolatry: way of life for the Thessalonians, the believers forsook all of it
- Holy spirit opened their hearts: realized idols could not deliver them

III. Jesus, Who Delivers Us From the Wrath to Come

- Thessalonians discovered: biggest problem was facing wrath of God
- This was on Paul's mind preaching to the pagan world (Acts 17:30,31)
- All other problems in life pale in compared to this one (2 Thess 21:7-9)

Conclusion and Application

1. Remember God's holy hatred for sin
2. Turning to Christ means turning from idols