



Chosen by God 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

- Author: Paul; Audience: New believers, mostly Gentile converts.
- Esther happened in 480 B.C., this is about 500+ years later.
- Thessalonica (still a city today)--capital of Roman Macedonia--important trade routes ran through.



http://bibleroads.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Manna_Pauls2ndJourney.jpg

- Paul visited on 2nd journey, forced to flee due to Jewish opposition.
- Sent Timothy back to work with the church.
- One of Paul's first letters (prob. after Gal), prob. written 51 A.D; written from Corinth.
- Like 1 & 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, and 2 Thessalonians, written by Paul & companions.
- "The function of ancient letters, especially those that could be classified as letters of friendship, was to shorten the distance between the author and recipients."
- Called the "co-capital" of Greece.
- This is a young, growing, healthy church.



- **A church doesn't have to be an old church to be a healthy church.**
- Paul writes letters to:
 - Encourage believers.
 - Give correction where necessary.
 - Teach doctrine.
- We read and preach this Word for the same reasons!
 - We beseech and beg and warn.
 - We encourage. Give correction.
 - Teach doctrine.

What does it mean to be chosen by God? And how do we know?

1 Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

- Paul—leader, Christ hater, church hater, radically knocked off his horse and saved.
- Timothy, his son, church planter, Grandmother/mother Christians, Dad not.
- Paul, w/ his co-workers in the gospel.
- Greeting his beloved fellow believers. “May you have grace and peace.” Non-believers do not have these things like we do.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 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.

- Do you thank God for the believers in your life? For those who pour into you? For those you pour into?
- You think the church there didn't have issues? And yet Paul always thanks God for the Church.
- **Thanks God for their work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in the Lord.**
 - Faith looks back, rests on crucified Savior.
 - Labor of love is working in the present. Proves our salvation.
 - Hope looks forward to the future return of the coming Savior.



1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 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.

- Chosen. Brothers AND sisters. Election. What do these words mean? Are they divisive? Are they scary?
- Are they Biblical? How do you decisively come to faith? Election says God is the decisive agent.
- So does God choose?
- These words, this concept of God choosing, electing--throughout the Bible.

Examples galore:

Nation of Israel over other nations.

Sarah over Hagar.

Isaac over Ishmael.

David over brothers.

Jacob over Esau.

Romans 9:11-13 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad--in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of Him who calls--she was told, "The older will serve the younger." As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

Ephesians 1:4-5 even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will.

Revelations 13:8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written **before the foundation of the world** in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

- Can we resist? Of course, we do all the time. But He overcomes our resistance, when He is ready, for His chosen. (Paul--knocked off his horse as he is headed to arrest Christians)



- How do I know if I'm chosen?

The gospel was EFFECTIVE! You heard. It finally made sense.
There was conviction.
You got saved!

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

- Proper response?

Humility.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 For consider your calling... God chose what is foolish...weak...low...despised...so that no human being might boast in the presence of God... And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus... “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Peace.

2 Timothy 1:9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began.

Believer...He has been thinking about you for a LONG time!