

1 Thessalonians 2

Notes for lesson 5

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Oct 6, 2013

1 Review of 1 Thess 1

- Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy brought the gospel to Thessalonika
- gospel came in ...
 - word
 - power
 - Holy Spirit
 - full conviction
- they became imitators of Paul, S. and T., and of the Lord
- recvd the gospel in tribulation yet with joy of the Holy Spirit
- gospel sounded forth to Macedonia and Achaia.
- turned from idolatry, to the living God

2 Overview of all 1 Thess

- chapter 1-3: Paul encourages them in their faith, longing to see them
- chapter 4:
 - instructions to excel still more,
 - avoid sexual immorality,
 - work hard.
 - instruction about Jesus' return
- chapter 5:
 - day of the Lord,
 - encourage one another,
 - appreciate those who labor and are in charge over you,
 - final instructions,
 - be kept blameless until He returns.

3 1 Thess 2 outline

- 2:1-2: We brought the gospel to you amidst opposition
- 2:3-5: We did not come in error
- 2:6: We did not come to seek glory
- 2:7-8 BUT: We came like a mother, sharing the gospel and our own lives
- 2:9-12: We came like a father: exhorting and encouraging
So that you walk in a manner worthy of God
- 2:13: THUS: we thank God that you accepted the word of God
- 2:14-16 The work of the word: imitators of Judean churches, amidst opposition of their own countrymen.
- 2:17-18: But we were eager to see you
We wanted to see you, but were hindered.
- 2:19-20 Because you are our glory and joy

4 1 Thess 2 key themes

- Paul describes how they came with the gospel
- So that they walk worthy of the God who calls them
- Thus: Paul thanks God for them.
- key theme: the word (v 13). compare 2:13 with 1:5
- key theme: imitators (1:6 and 2:14)

1 Thess 1:5-6: for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

1 Thess 1:5-6	1 Thess 2:13-14
gospel, not in word only	word of God
full conviction	accepted
in power	word performs its work
imitators of us and the Lord	imitators of churches in Judea
in tribulation	suffering at hands of own countrymen
with joy of Holy Spirit	

5 1 Thess 2: in-depth look at the gospel

The Who, Why, What, When, Where, and How of the gospel.

5.1 Why? Why did Paul give the gospel? Why give it today?

- Paul approved by God, entrusted with the gospel, pleasing God who examines our hearts (2:3-4)

but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

- they were dear to Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy (2:8)

8 Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

- so that they walk in a manner worthy of God (2:12)

12 so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

- under obligation (Rom 1:14)

14 I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. 15 So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

- no choice 1 Cor 9:16

16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. 17 For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.

5.2 What? What is the gospel?

15 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. (1 Cor 15:1-5)

- by it we're saved; hold fast
- Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures

- buried
- raised on the 3rd day, according to the Scriptures
- appeared to many

In Acts 2:22-42, Peter gave the gospel to the men of Israel, in Jerusalem: (Acts 3:12-26 similar)

22 "**Men of Israel** ... Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him ... 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. 25 For David says of Him, ... He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay. 32 This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. 34 For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ... 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ – **this Jesus whom you crucified.**" 37 **Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart,** and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ... 42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- Jesus came in power
- delivered over and crucified
- God raised him up
- repent and be baptized, for the remission of sins

In Acts 17, Paul on Mars Hill:

22 ... "**Men of Athens,** ... what **you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.** 24 **The God who made the world and all things in it,** since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since ... He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; ... we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. 30 Therefore **having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,** 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

- God is not an man-made idol, of gold, silver, or stone
- God made all of us
- all should repent
- God will judge the world
- He raised Jesus (a Man) from the dead

5.3 How? How do we share the gospel?

- Mars Hill - relate to their own background, even their muddled religious views (contrast with idolatry)
- Jerusalem - likewise, related to their Scriptural background, even contrast with their treatment of Jesus
- impart information
- compare / contrast / confront
- see highlighted sections of Scripture in section 5.2

22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (1 Cor 1:22)

- to the intellectual: foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of men
- to those seeking signs and wonders: the gospel is a stumbling block

5.4 Who? Does this apply to us? With whom do we share?

5.5 When?

Now. Before it's too late.

preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. (2 Tim 4:1-4)

5.6 Where?

Paul was led into Macedonia, away from Asia

6 Application questions

- What has God taught you from this study?
- Has he changed your thinking?
- Are you more equipped to share the gospel after doing this study?