

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Text for Reading & Discussion: 1 Thes. 1:1-10; Introductions to Paul's other letters

Memory/Meditation Verse:

1 Thes. 1:2-3 – *“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father.”*

Questions to consider in your study:

1. Notice how Paul starts the letter. What elements does it have in common with Paul's other letters? What does he convey or accomplish in the first four verses? What can we learn from this?
2. In v. 3, we find Paul's first use of the triad of faith, hope, and love (also found in 1 Thes. 5:8 and 1 Cor. 13:13). How do these three work together in a Christian's life? Notice the action words used in connection with each of these. How does each of these qualify or elaborate on our faith, hope, and love?
3. How did the gospel come to them? (v. 5) Explain these phrases. How does it come to us today? How does much of the “religious world” think it comes?
4. How did they receive the gospel? Describe all that Paul says of them that comments on their reception. What does this say about what it really means to “receive the gospel”?
5. Consider what Paul has to say in this chapter about their attitude and commitment. If Paul were writing to our congregation today, what things would you like him to say to us and about us? Are we living up to these? Give some thought to what you can do in our areas of weakness.