

History – Paul and the Thessalonian Church Acts 17:1-10 (11, 13)

- ▶ 3 Sabbath days in the synagogue
 - Proving the necessity of the death of Christ
 - Proving Jesus is the Christ
- ▶ Some Jews were persuaded
- ▶ Devout Greeks and leading women were persuaded
- ▶ Persecution by the Jews (1 Thess. 2:14-16)
- ▶ Escape by night to Berea (1 Thess. 2:17)
- ▶ Jews from Thessalonica agitated in Berea
- ▶ Paul depart for Athens
- ▶ Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica (1 Thess. 3:1-5)
- ▶ Good news through Timothy (Acts 18:5; 1 Thess. 3:6f)
- ▶ Paul's first epistle to the Thessalonian church

Overview of 1 Thessalonians

Theme: 1:9-10, 3:13, 5:23

Serving the living and true God – sanctification

Waiting for His Son from Heaven – hope

Outline of 1 Thessalonians

I. Foundation – Historical and Personal (1-3)

A. Power of the Gospel (1)

B. Joy of Ministry (2-3)

II. Future – Practical and Doctrinal (4-5)

C. The Will of God (4)

D. Sons of the Day (5)

Lesson 1: Power in the Gospel

1. Introduction (1:1)

2. The Power of God (1:2-5)

3. The Power of the Gospel (1:6-10)

Introduction: 1 Thessalonians 1:1

- ▶ From Paul, Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy
- ▶ Church of Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
 - God – first cause
 - Jesus Christ – our hope
(1:3; 10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:2, 23)
- ▶ Grace and peace

The Power of God: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

- ▶ The sovereignty of God in salvation.
- ▶ The Grace of God.
 - Loved by God
 - John 3:16
 - 1 John 4:10
 - 1 John 4:19
 - Romans 5:6-11
 - Jeremiah 31:3
 - Chosen by God
 - Ephesians 1:3-4
 - Romans 9:6-26
 - John 15:16

The Power of the Gospel: 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

- ▶ The Gospel is the word proclaimed

- ▶ The Gospel is the power of God by the Holy Spirit
 - Power was internal
 - Working of the Holy Spirit
 - Full assurance

- ▶ The transformation of the Gospel
 - Work of faith
 - Labor of love
 - Steadfastness of hope

- ▶ The testimony of the Gospel
 - Imitators of Paul and the Lord
 - Joy in affliction
 - Observable

- ▶ The effect of the Gospel
 - Turned to God from idols
 - Served the living and true (real) God
 - Wait for His Son from heaven

An Ageless Epistle

God is still sovereign in salvation

The Gospel is still the power of God for salvation

The Gospel is observable

The Evidence of Salvation

Work of faith	—	Turned to God from idols
Labor of love	—	Serve the living and true God
Steadfastness of hope	—	Wait for His Son from heaven