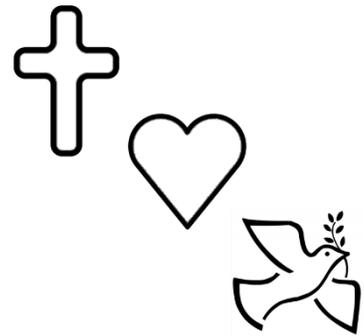


October 4, 2020
Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
Pastor Marvin Singh
1 & 2 Thessalonians, Lesson 2
Chosen



This is the second lesson in a series of meditations based on the books of First and Second Thessalonians.

The Letters to the Thessalonians were written by Paul to confirm the truths he had taught while he was with them and to dispel any false teachings that had spread among them. He commended them for their faith, encouraged them to press on in faith and love, and showed why they could always have hope in Christ.

Chosen

1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. ⁶You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. ⁷And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, ⁹for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

The writers (Paul, Silas and Timothy) had recognized the genuineness of the Thessalonians' faith by their eager acceptance of the gospel when they first heard it, and this recognition was now confirmed by the news which Timothy brought back about them (1 Thess. 3:6). It was made doubly evident that God has chosen them.

1. In the Old Testament God chose Abraham (Neh. 9:7) and his offspring, the people of Israel, after him (Deut. 4:37; 7:1-8; 10:15; Psalm 47:4; 74:68; 1 Kings 3:8; Isa. 41:8-9; 42:1; 43:10; 44:1-2; 45:4; 49:7). He chose them, to make himself known through them.

2. In the New Testament God has chosen us in Christ by faith-union, we who are the elect of God (Romans 11:5).

We are called and chosen (Eph. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13,14).

The purpose of choosing us is to reproduce the character of God by being 'conformed to the image of his Son' (Romans 8:29; 11:28; Col. 3:12; Matt. 12:28; Eph. 1:4).

3. Receiving of the Gospel: it came to you not in simplicity with **words** but also with the **power of the Holy Spirit** and **deep conviction**. Not only have you imitated us in faith, but you have become models for others.

God's election is not based on human merits or virtues but solely on His love (2 Tim. 1:9; Rom. 5:7-8). God always moves for the good of those whom he chooses and calls (Rom. 8:28). Divine love also transforms (1 Thess. 1:4; 2 Thess. 2:13).

a. **The Gospel came in the Word** - Genesis 1:1; John 1:1; 1 Thess. 2:13; 1 Cor. 2:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:6, 14; 3:7; 2 Cor. 4:3; Galatians 4:13; Phil. 4:15
It also came to the people through the words of Paul (1 Thess. 2:1-2, 5, 11; 3:3-4; 4:2; 5:2).

b. It also came with power, with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit accompanied the gospel and was proclaimed as the one who convinced the hearers of its truth (Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:8; 5:23; 1 Cor. 2:4-5; 1 Peter 1:12 Mark 6:5; Acts 2:22; 2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:4; 2 Thess. 2:9).

*The Holy Spirit is a Bearer of Truth (Lk. 4:46-49; Acts 1:8; 5:23; 1 Cor. 2:4-5; 1 Pet.1:12).

c. With deep conviction

The Holy Spirit moves and convicts people and brings them the truth of the message. Deep conviction is an expression of the way he (Paul) and his associates themselves were convinced of the truth of the message (Col. 2:2; Heb. 6:11; 10:22).

4. Imitators -

Paul urges them to become imitators of himself and of God (Phil 3:17; 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1). He specifies that the Corinthians should imitate him as he imitates Christ. His life provided the model of Christ-like life for those who had no first-hand knowledge of Christ.

“ . . . In spite of severe suffering . . . ”

The Lord himself suffered. So did his followers (Rom. 8:17; 2 Cor. 1:5; Phil. 3:10; 1 Pet. 2:21; 3:17-18; 4:12-13).

(i) Suffering is an important aspect of Christianity.

Suffering is a component of Christian discipleship (Matt. 8:18-22; 10:22-25; John 5:18-21; 16:33; Acts 9:15-16; 14:21-22).

Mark 8:34 - “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up **his cross** and follow me.”

Paul also warns them they will suffer for their faith (1 Thess. 2:14; 3:3-4; 2 Thess. 1:4-7; 3:3-5).

(ii) Paul endured suffering in Corinth (1 Thess. 3:7) and Philippi (1 Thess. 2:2), among others (2 Thess. 3:3).

And Paul mentions their example to others in endurance (1 Thess. 2:14; 3:3; 2 Thess. 1:4, 6; Rom. 8:5).

(iii) Joy in suffering - Matt. 5:11-12; Lk. 6:22-23; 21:21

The Apostles and the Christian church have always faced suffering and persecution (Acts 5:41; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 4:8-10; 7:4; Phil 2:17; Col. 1:24; James 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:6; 4:13-14).

The question comes to us, how did we receive the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is in one word: salvation (forgiveness of our sins)?

When we received it how did we live out our faith? Suffering and persecution is a perk for a Christian. All those who are called are to suffer for righteousness for all who are godly will suffer. It has a reward also for them. All those who suffer for him will receive the crown of righteousness.

How do we invite people to follow us as Paul challenged? He was following Christ and asking others to follow him. People are looking for model Christians. Will you be one with the character, conduct, attitude, and mind of Christ?

References used in preparing sermons in this series:

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