

The Unstoppable Church

1 Thess. 1:8 "For the Lord's message rang out from you...in every place that your faith in God has gone out..."

Text: 1 Thessalonians 1

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: The Gospel, Evangelism, The Culture

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Series: Unstoppable

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Context of 1 Thessalonians – *In Acts 17:3, Paul preached in the Thessalonian synagogue for three weeks and a number of Jews and God-fearing Gentiles believed. There were also many pagans who believed according to 1 Thess. 1:9-10. A Jewish persecution forced Paul to leave prematurely (Acts 17:9-10). A few months later, Paul sent Timothy back to check on the faith of these new Christians. Timothy catches up with Paul back in Corinth (Acts 18:5), and after hearing the report, Paul writes this letter.*

To become an unstoppable church...

1) Realize Your _____ (vs. 1-5)

A. "knowing your election..." (vs. 4) You have been elected (chosen).

B. God has chosen His church to be His primary means of reaching the world.

C. The Thessalonians received Jesus just like we all must receive Jesus – we must receive Him in word, in power, in the Holy Spirit, and with much assurance (vs. 5).

D. The fruit of the Gospel is the same for us as it was for the Thessalonians. It produces works of faith, labor of love, and the endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (vs. 3)

2) _____ God's Word (vs. 6-8)

A. Properly receiving the word will help you to:

i. Become an imitator of the _____ (vs. 6a).

ii. Endure _____ persecution (vs. 6b)

iii. Experience _____ in the Holy Spirit (vs. 6c)

iv. Become an example to other believers (vs. 7)

v. _____ out the message of Jesus in every place (vs. 8)

B. "Ring Out" – From the Greek word, *Exēcheō* means "sound forth" or "resound" and conveys the imagery from the sounding of a trumpet or the rolling of thunder. The use of the perfect tense here denotes continuing activity.

3) Reject All _____ (vs. 9-10)

A. The Thessalonians repented of their idolatry.

B. The Thessalonians began to serve the living and true God.

C. The Thessalonians began to await the return of Jesus.

Questions for Application

- 1) Who wrote this letter? (1:1)
- 2) To whom was this letter written? (1:1)
- 3) What did Paul remember about the Thessalonians? (1:2-3)
- 4) What made Paul believe God had chosen the Thessalonian believers? (1:4-10)
- 5) How had Paul presented the gospel to this audience? (1:5-6)
- 6) How had the Thessalonians responded to the gospel message? (1:6-7)
- 7) For what kind of faith were the Thessalonians known? (1:6)
- 8) Whom did the Thessalonians imitate? (1:6)
- 9) How had the Thessalonians' lives been a model for others? (1:7-10)
- 10) What changes did the Thessalonians make in their lives when they heard the gospel? (1:9)
- 11) What were the Thessalonians anticipating? (1:10)
- 12) How was the Thessalonians' hope visible for others to see?
- 13) What characteristics in a person would convince you that he or she was a genuine Christian?
- 14) What convinces people Christianity is true?
- 15) What is the difference between presenting the gospel with power and deep conviction, and presenting the gospel without it?
- 16) How are the Thessalonians examples for our daily living?
- 17) What persecution and suffering can Christians expect when they publicly declare their faith?
- 18) In what ways do we need to imitate Jesus Christ and other Christians we know?
- 19) In what visible ways have you been changed by turning away from sin and turning toward God?
- 20) How can actively waiting for Jesus' return affect our daily attitudes and actions?
- 21) How can you be more of a model to other believers this week?
- 22) In what way can you present the gospel with power and conviction the next time you share it?