

1 Thessalonians 1:1-8

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

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GOSPEL-SHAPED LIVING

‘Gospel election’

1 Thessalonians 1:1-8

Introduction

- amazing facts
- historical context

The blessing of election

‘Election is nearly always introduced in the Bible for a practical purpose – ‘to foster assurance (not presumption), holiness (not moral apathy), humility (not pride), and witness (not lazy selfishness).’

- God’s choice (v4b)

- God’s love (v4a)

The marks of election

- believing the gospel (v4-7)

- living the gospel (v2-3)

‘A person is justified by faith alone, but the faith that justifies is never alone.’

- proclaiming the gospel (v8)

Conclusion

Bible references: Acts 17:1-10; Nehemiah 9:7; Isaiah 41:8; 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 1:4-5; Deuteronomy 7:6.