

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Discussion Questions

- Pastor Merida opened this text with the question: What should our churches be known for? How would you answer?
- Paul thanks God for the Thessalonians' work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope. What is the difference between each of these, and why do all three matter?
 - Which of these do you think God is most wanting to strengthen in your life right now? Why?
- Paul describes the church as being "in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." What does that tell us about our identity as Christians? What does it mean for our security?
- According to verses 4-5, what convinced Paul that the Thessalonians were truly converted?
- Paul says the gospel came not only in words but "in power and in the Holy Spirit with full conviction." What's the difference?
 - Why is it dangerous to rely merely on persuasive arguments or personality when sharing the gospel?
- Can you think of a time when you sensed God working powerfully through His Word - in your own conversion or in someone else's?
- The Thessalonians received the gospel "in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit." How can joy and suffering coexist?
- Pastor Merida noted that "our greatest problem has already been solved." How does remembering the gospel change the way we experience hardships?

- Verse 8 says the word of the Lord “sounded forth” from them. What does it look like for a church’s witness to naturally overflow into the surrounding community?
 - Who has God uniquely placed in your everyday network that you could intentionally pray for and share Christ with?
- Repentance is more than stopping sinful behavior, it’s turning toward the true and living God (verse 9). How have you experienced both sides of that equation? What have you had to leave behind in order to follow Christ?
- Paul describes Christians as waiting for Christ’s return. How does this future event shape our present?
 - How would your priorities change if you believed Christ was returning tomorrow?
- Verse 10 said that Jesus delivers us from the wrath to come. Why do we no longer need to fear God’s wrath?
 - Do you ever struggle with fear of God’s wrath, even as a Christian? What is the gospel solution to that fear?