

Sermon Notes

Church Growth is Gospel Growth

(1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)

1. The Evidence that God is At Work (vs. 1-4)

2. The Way God Works (vs. 5)

3. The Effects of God's Work (vs. 6-10)

For Further Thought and Discussion

Getting Started

1. What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
2. What is the biggest change you've seen in your life since you put your faith in Jesus?

Going Deeper

3. Please read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4. How does Paul know that God has chosen the Thessalonians? What evidence does he see that God is at work in them? Why is inward character change the best indicator that God is working in us? Why are those changes the best evidence we can show the world that the gospel is true? How do you define the work of faith? The labor of love? The steadfastness of hope? How have you seen these in your own experience?
4. Please read 1 Thessalonians 1:5. What do you notice about the way the gospel came to Thessalonica? What did God do? What did Paul and his companions do? What do you learn about effective evangelism from this verse?
5. Please read 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10. What effects do you observe of the gospel coming to Thessalonica? Why is reproduction so important to the spread of the gospel? If the gospel stops with us and doesn't spread beyond us, what does this imply about our faith in the gospel?
6. What do you learn from this chapter about a healthy Christian? About a healthy church?

Application

What is one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?