

1 Thes. 1:1-10

I. Epistolary intro: (1)

A. Author: Paul, Silas and Timothy (1a)

All three were with them in the founding visit,

All three are listed as authors and authority

Very likely that Paul was the primary author and authority

B. Recipients: The church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (1b)

C. Greeting: Grace and peace to you (1c)

II. Thanksgiving (2-10)

A. Thanksgiving/prayer report: (2-3)

1. Thanksgiving: We always give thanks to God concerning all of you (2a)

2. Elaborating the manner in which we give thanks: (2b-3)

a Making mention/recollection [of you] in our prayers (2b)

b We remember your deeds: (3)

1) We unceasingly remember before our God and Father

2) What we remember/mention:

a) Your work that comes from faith

b) Your toil that comes from love

c) And your patience that comes from the hope in our Lord Jesus Christ

Lit. "work of faith" etc., must be interpreted to say how they are connected

NIV is good, seeing them connected as root and fruit,

faith-hope-love changes us so that we labor and persevere

B. Reasons: (4-10)

1. We know God has chosen you (4-5b)

a Knowing, brothers beloved by God, your election/special choice (4)

b Reason: (5a-b)

1) Neg. because our Gospel did not come about to you in word only (5a)

Not less than words, the Gospel cannot come without meaningful words

But more than just words

2) Pos. but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and in much full assurance/conviction

(5b)

2. You know how we lived and your response (5c-10)

a Just as you know what sort of people we were among you because of you (5c)

b And you imitated us (6-10)

1) You imitated us (6)

a) You became imitators of us and of the Lord (6a)

b) Receiving the word [even] in much tribulation with joy from the Holy Spirit

(6b)

- 2) The result is that you became a model for others (7-10)
 - a) You became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia (7)
 - b) Specific Elaboration: (8-10)
 - (1) The Word and news of you went out (8)
 - (a) The Word of the Lord was sounded out from you not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but also in every place (8a)
 - (b) News about your faith went out successfully (8b-c)
 - (i) [News about] your faith toward God went out (8b)
 - (ii) So that we did not have need to tell something [about it] (8c)
 - (2) For they heard these things about you (9-10)
 - (a) These themselves announced concerning you: (9a)
 - (b) What they announced: (9b-10)
 - (i) First: What sort of welcome/reception we had concerning you (9b)
 - (ii) Second: You turned to God from idols (9c-10)
 - ((a)) And how you turned to God from the idols (9c)
 - ((b)) The purpose of the turning (9d-10)
 - ((1)) to serve the living and true God (9d)
 - ((2)) and to expectantly wait for His Son from heaven – Whom He raised from the dead – Jesus Who rescued us from the coming wrath (10)

That is a great way to measure a church/mission/event's effectiveness
 -changed lives and smashed idols and groundswell buzz about
 God's working
 Without the need to resort to PR and promotion

Paul opens the letter with a normal introduction of author and recipients, followed by a thanksgiving. The thanksgiving is thanks for God's work in the lives of the Thessalonians through the ministry of Paul, which resulted in changed lives and model faith. This passage serves both as a thanksgiving and a reminder/rehearsal of their past and their relationship with Paul. This section is obviously the first of the letter and thus introductory/ preparatory for what follows. It is a true thanksgiving, but also serves as a reminder of God's work in their midst, Paul's ministry in their midst, and their own faithfulness. With this reminder, Paul is preparing them to reaffirm his right to speak to them, and motivating them to continue in faithfulness and zealously in the matters he is about to address.