

You Are Chosen > 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

1:1 Greeting. Paul – as he normally does – opens his letter with a greeting that puts the whole foundation in view: God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are at the root of everything that Paul and the Thessalonians have in common, and at the root of everything Paul will write in this letter.

1:2-3 Thanksgiving. It's significant, then, that the first "topic" Paul writes on is thanksgiving: gratefulness for this imperfect church filled with fairly new believers. Paul's gratefulness specifically revolves around the fact that the Thessalonians don't just believe Christ on an intellectual level, but rather that the Gospel is transforming how they live and act.

1:4-5 Chosen. The foremost encouragement that Paul has for these young believers is to remind them that, in spite of their need for maturity, for growth in the faith, and despite the reality of persecution – they have been chosen by God. He has a plan for them.

Background: Paul's visit to Thessalonica is recorded in Acts 17. The mission trip starts well, but ends with a riot and social unrest, leading to Paul and Silas quickly moving on.

The Point: Being chosen by God means that the way a person – or a congregation – goes about life is radically changed. Being chosen gives a humble confidence in God's plans.

Head: Know that God has chosen each and every Christian.

Heart: Believe that God has a purpose for you and His church.

Hands: Who will you extend God's invitation to? How are you responding to the Gospel of Christ? How is He changing you?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
