

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O u r n a l

**DAILY BIBLE STUDIES**

*"The Fruit of The Elect"- Part 2*

*1 Thessalonians 1:8-10*

**NOVEMBER 18 -24, 2007**

**THE LORD'S DAY** - This week we continue our study in **1 Thessalonians** by looking further at the theme we saw last time; namely, identifying The Elect of God or born again Christians by examining the fruit found in their lives. We are using the believers in Thessalonica as our illustration but these "fruits" can be found in all of God's children; past, present, and future. Read **1 Thessalonians 1:8-10**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask the Lord to teach you from His Word this week.*

**MONDAY** – The fruits we see this week find their roots and grow out of hearts that have been changed by God's grace. We understand from Scripture these people did not "muster up" these virtues on their own. Only a person who has been converted and regenerated from spiritual death to life by The Holy Spirit can bring forth fruit that pleases God. The entire point is that The Sovereign God pre-determined in eternity past and ordained that His children would bear fruit that pleases Him (**Ephesians 2:10**). According to Scripture, God Himself ordained the very "good works" themselves. **Verse 4** of **1 Thessalonians 1** lets us know that our Salvation originates not by our choosing God but by "His choice of you" (NASB). The Doctrine of Election is foundational in any discussion relating to our "good works" or fruit because it makes sure the basis for those works is found in God's choice and determination not ours, and therefore ultimately gives all the glory to Him. Read **John 15:16, Ephesians 1:4-6, 11-12**.

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

Suggestion for prayer: *If you are a believer, thank, praise, and glorify God today that He chose to bring you out of spiritual death into His marvelous light.*

**TUESDAY** – The next fruit in the lives of The Elect is found in **verse 8** where the text says "For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth..." These people as well as true believers today share the gospel message by telling it or "sounding forth" the good news. A man who never opens his mouth to proclaim the Gospel

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

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may very well never have been changed by it. This Greek word used for “*sounded forth*” comes from a word used to describe the roaring of the sea. The sea doesn't offer up its waves in a storm without some serious intensity and noise and these believers shared the gospel with intensity and continuance like that. We can be passionate about a lot of things, and we often speak with great desire and intensity about them, but may God grow out of our lives the fruit of the proclamation of His gospel which is a mark of those who are truly His Elect children. Read **Romans 10:14-18, Mark 16:15, Matthew 24:14.**

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Ask God to help you to sound forth and proclaim His glorious gospel with passion, intensity, and love for the lost, just as Christ did.*

**WEDNESDAY** – Further commenting on yesterdays point of proclaiming forth the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, look at the remainder of **verse 8** and you will see the “where” that this gospel was and is to be proclaimed. The text says, “...not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out...” The Thessalonians so proclaimed forth the Gospel message that it went out like the ripples in a pond when a rock is thrown in the center. The good news just echoed forth from this strategic location as travelers passed through and heard and saw the testimony of these believers. In fact, the message and witness they lived and taught was having such an impact that Paul commented, “...so that we do not need to say anything. For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you”. This is visible and tangible “fruit” that The Elect of God will bear. What kind of reputation and impact are you having on those lost in sin, and apart from Christ? Read **Matthew 5:14-16, 28:18-20.**

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Ask God to burden your heart to desire to support those who are out in Christ's name spreading the gospel throughout this world.*

**THURSDAY** – As we look at **verse 9** of our text we see clear evidence that marks or identifies The Elect: “...and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God...” Salvation is more than just “adding Jesus” to your life and these Thessalonians exemplified the transformation that takes place in the life of a converted sinner. They “*turned*” (epistrepho) which in the Greek language speaks of a change in direction. This is what “repentance” looks like. It is a turning away from something and also a turning towards something else. The allegiances in a life change when a person is truly born again. These people turned from loving their “*idols*” to serve and be devoted to “*the living and true God*”. The worthless, lifeless “*idols*” are put opposite the “*true and living*” God Almighty in this text.

The Child of God loves, serves, and has allegiance to his Father, while the unconverted man is found giving his love and allegiance to the “dead and worthless” idols of this world. Read **John 17:3, Acts 11:21, Romans 6:16-18, Galatians 4:8.**

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Ask God for a repentant heart. Pray that He would help you live a life that is constantly turning from sin and unto Him.*

**FRIDAY** – The final “fruit of The Elect” that we see in our text is from **verse 10** where it says, “and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come”. This fruit could be defined as “anticipating and looking for the return of Jesus Christ”. This is a logical place to end our discussion of the identifying fruits in the lives of The Elect. The return of Jesus Christ, like no other event will deliver the joy, happiness, fulfillment, and completion to God's plan and purpose and this is why true believers long for and look for that blessed day. The Elect of God understand that in that day Jesus will be exalted in such a way that he eagerly awaits the fulfillment of the prophet's words, “*The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, The haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, And the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day*” (**Isaiah 2**). Read **Acts 1:9-11, Titus 2:11-13.**

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Dear Jesus, I am eagerly waiting the day when You will be revealed and glorified in Your mighty return! Even so come, Lord Jesus.*

**SATURDAY** – We stopped short of discussing at length the last phrase of **verse 10** and we will pick that up at a later time. In the past couple weeks we have looked at the identifying features or what we called the “fruit” of The Elect. These are all virtues that mark genuine believers. A lot of people profess to know Jesus and be born again Christians but if their lives are void of these qualities, they may be just that “professing” Christians. Even as true believers, we are constantly reminded of our sinfulness and understand we are not yet glorified, but we strive to be more like Jesus and continue on in sanctification. The true child of God can be identified by these fruits and they will like the Thessalonians, demonstrate them to some degree. Read **James 2:14-20.**

*What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?*

*Suggestion for prayer:* *Dear God, help me by Your grace to bear fruit that pleases You. May I not be a fraud but a growing, fruit bearing, child of Yours.*