

Chosen

3-5-23

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (ESV)

For we know, brothers loved by God, that HE has chosen you.

Paul does not have any concern about the Thessalonians. Paul is confident that God has chosen them.

We know salvation comes to all who have accepted Jesus as their Savior. These are the chosen. Also, we know Christ works a change in our lives once we trust in HIM. There is evidence associated with the chosen.

Why is Paul confident concerning the Thessalonians? What would give us the same reasonable confidence in others and confirm our own conviction. Paul is confident that God has chosen these believers, because:

1 Thessalonians 1:5 (ESV)

Because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

Paul is positive they are chosen by God because the gospel came to them not only in Word (logos), but also in power. The word used for power is the same word from which we get dynamite. Just like swallowing a stick of dynamite God's Word causes change in us. We receive this dynamite power by the means of the Holy Spirit. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have full conviction or much and complete certainty that Jesus died for us and lives through us.

This is a transformation that no one can talk us out of or take away from us. We know that we are forgiven and rejoice that we are chosen. Transformed, we fall in love with Jesus. It is not what we know. It is who we know and who we have received. When the “chosen” receive Christ, a change, a turning, takes place from within.

1 Thessalonians 1:9 (ESV)

You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

This verse is the definition of repentance. The term repentance means “to turn”. Repent means “to turn” to God. By turning to God, we automatically “turn from” sin. **Repentance is not about “turning from” sin but it is all about “turning to” God.** *Therefore, we preach turning to God not turning from sin. When we turn to God, we serve God.*

God is sovereign, but HE moves through us to share HIS Word and to cooperate with HIM.

2 Timothy 2:10 (ESV)

Therefore, I endure everything for the sake of the elect (chosen), that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

I can't explain, but let God be God and let us be obedient to share HIS Word so that God's chosen will come to know HIM.

All things are sifted through God's Hands. Therefore, we have confidence. We confidently serve while waiting in great expectation for God to move.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (ESV)

You wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

While serving and waiting we know that Jesus will soon return and deliver us from the wrath to come. The word wrath is the state of fury and strong anger. As believers we know that God will judge the earth, because of their rejection of His will.

Wrath is already on its way and thus quite near, but we do not fear because Christ will deliver us from God' wrath. Early Christians saw Christ's return as imminent, and we likewise should have the same anticipation. **The concept of the wrath of God is a striking reminder that God is totally opposed to every form of evil. The church reflects God's truth in this dark world. Therefore, the church is reminded to come together as things grow worse and the time of Jesus' return approaches.**

Hebrews 10:24–25 (ESV)

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Believers are commanded to meet together.

Christians need each other and even more so when things get worse. The words, *not neglecting to meet together*, certainly refers to church services, but also includes other informal gatherings.

There is power in the church. **Neglecting to meet as a church is a serious weakness.** Therefore, we should purposely make every effort *to keep meeting together as we see the Day approaching.*

When we have Christ's mind our mind changes. God has revealed to us HIS Chosen, the truth of HIS return and the following judgement. Therefore, we see things very different.

2Peter 3:11 (NIV)

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.

Loving or being consumed by the things of this world is like having a party on the Titanic.

As chosen, we are informed, blessed, and powerful.

Therefore, as chosen we live wisely with great expectation.

James 5:8 (ESV)

You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.