

# The Transformation of the Thessalonians

## 1 Thess. 1:6-10

### Introduction:

- A. The great transforming power of the gospel worked at Thessalonica.
  - 1. From idol worshipers to servants of the living God.
  - 2. In spite of severe opposition in the community. (Cf. Acts 17).
- B. We can profit from the details of their transformation:

### Discussion:

#### I. They Received the Word.

- A. In much affliction (v. 6; Acts 17:1-9).
  - 1. Gospel produces either revival or revolt.
  - 2. Efforts to avoid affliction may avoid effectiveness.
  - 3. "Joy of the Holy Spirit" compensates for afflictions.
- B. As the word of God, not men (2:13).
  - 1. With as much respect for authority if spoken directly by God.
  - 2. With as much reverence and dignity as if spoken directly.
- C. In order to be born again (cf. 1 Pet. 1:23)

#### II. They Turned from Idols.

- A. Conversion involves turning away from something.
  - 1. May be vain religion.
  - 2. May be immoral living.
  - 3. May be sinful relationships.
  - 4. May be self-dependence.
- B. Cannot take on the Lord and leave old life intact.

#### III. They Turned to God.

- A. To Serve Him (v. 9).
  - 1. Constantly worshiping Him (5:17; Heb. 10:25).
  - 2. Abounding in His work (1 Cor. 15:58);
- B. To wait for His Son (v. 10).
  - 1. Will come as thief in the night (4:13-5:4).
  - 2. Not idle waiting, but waiting while busy serving.

#### IV. They Sounded out the Word.

- A. By word and by example (vv. 8, 9).
- B. Cannot be content with receiving word, must pass it on (cf. 2 Tim. 2:2)

### Conclusion:

- A. This may tell us something about why church is not growing today.
  - 1. Trying too hard to avoid affliction in receiving the word.
  - 2. Trying to turn to God without turning from anything.
  - 3. Trying to turn to God without really serving Him.
  - 4. Trying to maintain the church without sounding out the Word.
- B. Let be busy serving and sounding while waiting for the Lord to come.