

# MESSAGE NOTES

October 12, 2008

## “THE GOSPEL HAS THE POWER TO GIVE FOCUS TO LIFE!”

What is the history and context in which Paul’s 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Thessalonians was written?

- *“Come over to Macedonia to help us” (Acts 16:9).*
- *“As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead” (Acts 17:2-3).*

### READ 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5a

1) The Source is \_\_\_\_\_

What gospel are we talking about?

Paul’s gospel did not come simply with words but also with ...

— \_\_\_\_\_

— \_\_\_\_\_

- *“When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.<sup>2</sup> For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.<sup>3</sup> I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.<sup>4</sup> My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power,<sup>5</sup> so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power” (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).*

— \_\_\_\_\_

## 2) The Focus is \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to have a focus?

Where can we find a proper focus?

The Gospel had given focus to the lives of the Thessalonians. That was evident through the three things that Paul remembered in his prayers.

- Their work produced by \_\_\_\_\_
  - *“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).*
  - *“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).*
- Their labor prompted by \_\_\_\_\_
- The endurance inspired by \_\_\_\_\_ in their Lord Jesus Christ
  - *“You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit”(1 Thessalonians 1:6).*

Although we do not suffer for our faith as severely as the Thessalonians did, in what ways do we suffer for our faith?

Where do we find the power to endure and even rejoice in suffering?