

# WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENT

from Johnny Hunt

## CONFIDENCE IN THE GOSPEL

### PART TWO

*Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7*

#### I. INTRO

- A reminder that the gospel doesn't travel alone and that the power of it doesn't rest in you.

#### II. THE GOSPEL CONVICTION | VERSE 5d

- **"in much assurance"**—with deep conviction. Paul's preaching was not only powerful in its effect, but confident in its presentation. He was sure of his message, of its truth and relevance and in consequence was bold in proclaiming it—a settled and passionate conviction of the truth and power of the gospel.
- These preachers were so conscious of the assistance of the Holy Spirit in their ministry that they were fully convinced that God's Word would accomplish the work for which He sent it forth.
- **Isaiah 55:11-13, "So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return unto Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the Lord for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."**

#### III. THE GOSPEL'S COMPLIMENT | VERSE 5e

- **"You know what kind of men we were among you"**
- Some in Thessalonica had attempted to discredit their ministry by attacking their character and message. Their ministry was a sufficient reply to the accusations of their opponents.
- The kind of men they were was **further proof** of the authenticity of the gospel.
- If our witness is to be believable, it must be the testimony of a life that is believable. There must be in our hearts, lives, and message evidence that God has done a work in our lives.

#### IV. THE GOSPEL'S CAUSE | VERSE 5f

- **"for your sake"**—it was all in their interest and for their advantage.

#### V. THE GROWING OF THE EVANGELIZED | VERSE 6

- Confidence is verified by the change in the hearts of the hearers. There was considerable opposition in Thessalonica to the gospel, those who proclaimed it, and those who embraced it. The gospel always arouses hostility.
- The same Spirit that gave **power** to those who preached it, **joy** to those who received it.
- God was at work in the speakers and the hearers.
- What made their response so convincing was the fact that their reception of the gospel resulted in a blend of suffering and joy. Had the gospel just been a source of blessing and gain, their response might well have been attributed to selfish motives. But they receive under great pressure the gospel of Christ.
- These new believers were growing. It is apparent that they were grounded in that they did not quit when faced with opposition.

#### VI. THE GLOWING EXAMPLE | VERSE 7

- The imitators in their town were imitated.
- When Christ and His followers become your model, inevitably you become a model to others.
- The measure of the sermon is determined as much by the congregation as it is by the preacher. Strong congregations make strong preachers.
- The Thessalonians, by the quality of their response to the gospel, extended Paul's preaching throughout Greece.

#### VII. CONCLUSION

- The gospel is not devoid of wonderful effects.