

Week beginning 16th October 2023
Sermon: Sunday 22nd October 2023

11 In v9 to 10 there is progression in the faith of the Thessalonians: they turned, they served, and they waited. Can you trace a similar pattern in your own growth as a Christian?

12 How does this understanding of conversion shape our witness and evangelism and also our nurture of new Christians?

Study 1: Faith. Love and Hope.

Readings: 1Thessalonians 1

Think back, what differences has knowing the gospel made in your life?

Read 1Thessalonians 1:

1 Who are the senders and who are the recipients of this letter? In Paul's address to the church, we have both the geographical and theological location for the church. What does this say about the nature of church, including ours?

2 Read in the book of Acts the story of the founding of the church in Thessalonica. (Acts 17:1 – 15) What challenges did the new church face?

3 Why does Paul give thanks? How does he characterize the lives of the Thessalonian Christians in v3?

4 What is the significance of faith, love and hope? How are they related, what are they based on?

5 How do you think Paul could see these characteristics in the Thessalonians' actions? Do you see these at work in Christians around you?

6 Paul describes the Thessalonians as chosen by God in v4, how did he know this to be true?

7 How did Paul and his fellow workers present the gospel? How does this challenge you and our church in the practice of evangelism?

8 How were the Thessalonians affected by the reception of the message? How does your own experience echo that of the Thessalonians?

9 Given the background you read earlier from Acts 17, how difficult do you think it would have been for the Thessalonians to take on these new priorities and values?

10 How did the changes in the Thessalonians then become a witness to others?