

First Thessalonians 1:2-10
The Congregation's Birth and Growth
Paul's Reminiscences—1:2-2:16
Personal Comments—1:1-3:13

- 1) What is Paul doing?—1:2a ² *We give thanks to God always for all of you^{pl},*
- 2) What does Paul's gratitude look like?—1:2b-4
 - a) Godward—*making* [pres. mid. ptc.] *mention of you^{pl} in our prayers,*
 - b) Consistent—³ *constantly remembering your^{pl}* (emphatic) [pres. act. ptc.] (fruit and root; cf. 5:8; 1st Corinthians 13:13; Galatians 5:5-6; 1st Peter 1:21; Hebrews 10:22-24)
 - i) Faith is active—*work/activity* [ἔργον] *of faith* [πίστις],
 - ii) Love is serving—*and exhausting labor* [κόπος] *of love* [ἀγάπη],
 - iii) Hope is confident—*and the endurance* [ὑπομονή] *of hope* [ἐλπίς] *in our Lord Jesus Christ*
 - iv) Another reference to prayer—*in the presence of our God and Father,*
 - c) Theological—⁴ *knowing* [pf. act. ptc.], *brothers loved* [pf. pass. ptc. ἀγαπάω] *by God, your^{pl} election* [ἐκλογή], (cf. 2:12; 4:7; 5:9, 24; 2nd Thessalonians 2:13)
 - i) A genuine Christian congregation is to be comprised of believers.
- 3) Because the nature of one's conduct illustrates God's loving election—1:5-10
 - Note also the Tri-unity of God mentioned throughout
 - a) Paul's conduct—1:5
 - i) ⁵ *because our gospel ...*
 - (1) Negatively—*did not come to you^{pl} in word only,*
 - (2) Positively—*but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and in full confidence/assurance;*
 - ii) *just as you^{pl} know what kind of people we were among you^{pl} for your^{pl} benefit.*
 - b) The Thessalonians' conduct—1:6-10 ⁶ *And your^{pl}* (emphatic) *became imitators of us and of the Lord, having welcomed the word in much distress* (cf. Acts 17:5-10) *with the joy of the Holy Spirit,* ⁷ *so that you^{pl} became patterns to all the believers in Macedonia* (north) *and Achaia* (south).
 - i) Echoing out—1:8 ⁸ *For from you^{pl} the word of the Lord has resounded, not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but also in every place your^{pl} faith toward God has proceeded, so that we have no need to say anything.*
 - ii) Responding back—1:9-10 ⁹ *For they themselves report concerning us ...*
 - (1) Embraced—*what sort of reception we had with you^{pl},*
 - (2) Repented—*and how you^{pl} turned to God from idols*
 - Mt. Olympus, home to the Greek gods & goddesses, was only 50 miles to the southwest
 - (a) Concerning the present—*to serve* [pres. act. inf. δουλεύω] *the living and true/genuine God,*
 - (i) Not only alive but life-giving
 - (b) Concerning the future—¹⁰ *and to wait expectantly* [pres. act. inf.] *for His Son from* [ἐκ] *heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who rescues us from* [ἀπό] *the coming wrath.* (cf. 5:9; Titus 2:11-13)
 - (i) The imminent return of Christ