

▼ **Good News: Powerful Message, Powerful Impact**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday August 23, 2015

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- **Read Passage 1: 1 Thessalonians 1**

- **Read Passage 2: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16**

▼ **Purpose of the Sermon (what listeners should do)**

- Recognize the results of proclaiming the gospel with power.
- Recognize the divine initiative that leads to powerful proclamation of the gospel.
- Understand how to nurture the harvest.

▼ **Recognize the results of proclaiming the gospel with power.**

- Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians takes place after the events of Acts 16:1 - 17:15.
- Paul's team proclaimed the gospel with power.
- The transformation in their lives became apparent to the whole region.

▼ **Recognize the divine initiative that leads to powerful proclamation of the gospel.**

- God chose the Thessalonians (remember Paul's vision of the man from Macedonia. - Acts 16:6-10)
- The Thessalonians embraced the message and imitated Paul.

▼ **Understand how to nurture the harvest.**

- Paul's team nurtured the Thessalonians like parents nurturing children.
- If it happened then and there, it can happen elsewhere.
- When the gospel is proclaimed with power it transforms powerfully.

▼ **Discussion Questions & Topics**

- Have you seen the gospel proclaimed with power? Have you seen the gospel proclaimed without power. What was the difference?
- Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia. Have you ever experienced God calling you to use your gifts in a specific situation? Discuss.
- Paul nurtured the Thessalonians. Whom have you nurtured?

▼ **What we're reading and why we're reading it.**

- We're reading the New Testament in chronological order (the order in which the books were probably written) rather than canon order (the order in which they appear in the Bible).
- This will help us to understand the good news of God's Kingdom and how it spreads.

▼ **The Gospels**

- The events related in the gospels took place around 30 A.D.
- The gospels themselves were not written down until several years after Galatians and James.
- The gospels describe the initial announcement of God's Kingdom by Jesus and his death, burial, and resurrection through which he was established as the world's Lord.

▼ **Acts**

- Covers period from Jesus' resurrection (30 A.D.) through its establishment in Rome (63 A.D.).
- So far we are dealing with the church as it was at about Acts 15.

▼ **Galatians - written A.D. 49 (contemporaneously with Acts 14 - 15)**

- The churches in Galatia were composed mostly of gentiles (i.e. non-Jews) who had responded to the proclamation of the gospel by Paul and others.
- Judaizers told the gentiles to become Jews first in order to follow Jesus.
- Paul teaches them to put their faith in Christ and not the law.

▼ **James - written A.D. 50 (contemporaneously with Acts 14 - 15)**

- Many of the Jewish believers had been scattered through Judea and Samaria as a result of the persecution described in Acts 8:1-3.
- James wrote to help correct some misunderstandings about salvation by faith and to give them guidance about living under pressure.
- 1Thessalonians - written A.D. 51