

▼ **The Gospel Takes Root - Part 2**

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- **Read the Passage: 1Thessalonians 1:1-10**

▼ **What happened?**

- ▼ Paul, Silas, and Timothy thank God for the Thessalonians and pray for them.

- They remember their work (faith), labor (love), endurance (hope).

- ▼ They know God loves them and has chosen them.

- ▼ The way the gospel went out to them

- with power (in addition to words),
- with the Holy Spirit,
- with deep conviction

- ▼ The impact the gospel had on them

- Paul and his team lived a life of integrity among the Thessalonians.
- The Thessalonians imitated Paul and his apostolic team.
- The Thessalonians became a model to the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.
- The Thessalonians' faith has become known beyond Macedonia and Achaia - everywhere.
- They turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and wait for his Son.

▼ **Why did it happen?**

- ▼ Paul and his team shared good news (i.e. the gospel) NOT good advice.

- Good advice

- ▼ Good news:

- ▼ Something has happened that is worth telling:

- What has happened takes place in the context of a longer story.
- As a result of what has happened, everything is different.

- ▼ The Gospel

- ▼ The Kingdom of God is here! - Mark 1:14-15

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

- Repent - change your mind, turn
 - How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news. - Isaiah 52:1-15
 - For Romans, “good news” was the announcement of a new emperor or of the emperor’s birthday. It was the good news of Caesar’s having established peace and security for the world.
- ▼ **How do you position yourself to share the gospel effectively? - Acts 16:6 - 17:15**
- Let God set the agenda; He makes the “waves”. - Acts 16:6-10
 - Look for an opening. - Acts 16:11-15
 - Deal with demonic opposition. - Acts 16:16-18
 - Respond to suffering and persecution with prayer and love. - Acts 16:19-34
 - Make life easier for the Christians coming after you. - Acts 16:35-40
 - Grab the next opportunity. - Acts 17:1-9
 - Complete the mission. - Acts 17:10-15
- ▼ **How Do You Share It?**
- Know the good news.
 - Know the back story.
- ▼ Understand the implications for your audience.
- ▼ If
 - God’s agenda is to reclaim this broken world,
 - and God’s Kingdom is now here (i.e. God has become King),
 - and we have been grafted into Israel (and thus into Israel’s agenda to demonstrate God’s Kingship) . . .
 - ▼ Then
 - We can reclaim for God our appropriate pieces of the broken world around us.
 - Which pieces are you called to reclaim?
- **Has the Gospel taken root anywhere around you?**
- ▼ **Discussion / Reflection Questions:**
- What’s the difference between good news and good advice?
 - What is the gospel and how do I share it?
 - Has the gospel taken root anywhere around you? How can you tell?