

I Thessalonians i.5-10

First RPC Durham

I. Receiving the Word of God with Faith (v 5).

- A.** Context (vv 2-4; Rom 8:30).
- B.** How the Gospel is not to be received by the Church
 - 1)** What this does not mean:
 - a)** This does not mean that the Gospel is not conveyed in words (Rom 10:17).
 - b)** This does not mean that the Gospel is proclaimed in more than words.
 - 2)** What this does mean: That the true receiving of the Gospel bears good fruit (Jeremiah 42:6, 43:2; 1 Jn 3:18).
- C.** How the Word of God is to be received: With Faith, which then leads to Repentance (1 Cor 4:20; Ezk 37:3)
- D.** A brief word on the character of the messengers (see also 2:1-12)
- E.** Uses from the Text
 - 1)** In order to receive the Word with faith, the Holy Spirit must give us eyes to see and ears to hear (Psa 119:18; Mk 9:24).
 - 2)** In order to receive God's Word with faith, we must hear and read that Word with great attention and retention (Neh 8:2-3; Psa 103:13-14).
 - 3)** As you hear God's Word read, sung and faithfully preached, believe it.

II. Receiving the Word of God with Obedience (vv 6-9).

- A.** Following the example of the messengers (v 6)
 - 1)** Of Paul, Silas, and Timothy (1 Cor 11:1).
 - 2)** Of Christ Jesus
 - 3)** The character of their obedience (2 Tim 3:12; Hos 2:14).
- B.** Setting an example to other Christians (vv 7-8)
 - 1)** Of faithfulness through affliction (vv 7, 8b; Acts 17:10, 14-15; 1 Thes 3:6; James 2:18).
 - 2)** Of faithfulness in ministry (v 8a)
 - a)** *For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth* — So that the Gospel went out in both the faithful witness of the saints there, and in the preaching of the Word.

- b)** We are told of some of these men from other portions of the New Testament (Acts 20:3; Rom 16:21).

- C.** Receiving the Word with repentance (v 9)
 - 1)** Their repentance was evident before all
 - 2)** Turning from sin (1 Cor 6:9-11, NKJV)
 - 3)** Turning to righteousness (Ex 8:1; 1 Kgs 17:24, 27, NKJV; 1 Cor 8:4, NKJV; Jer 10:10).
- D.** Uses from the Text
 - 1)** We are confronted with and convicted of our sin in the Word of God. (Heb 4:12-13, ESV; Jms 1:23-24).
 - 2)** We are to be repenting from those particular sins according to the standard of God's Word (Psa 78:5; Jms 1:25).
 - 3)** We are exhorted to making diligent use of preaching, not only for faith, but also for life or obedience.

III. Receiving the Word of God with Perseverance (v 10).

- A.** The summary of the Christian's perseverance (*Nicene Creed*; Acts 1:11b, NKJV; 1 Thes 1:3; Mt 13:23).
- B.** The grounds of our perseverance (1 Cor 15:3-4, 20, 23-24)
- C.** The summary of the Christian's hope (Isa 53:5-6)
- D.** Uses from the Text
 - 1)** Seeing that the return of Christ is a constant theme in the New Testament, it ought to be a consistent theme in our prayers and affections.
 - 2)** We are to look to His coming (*WCF 33.3*)
 - 3)** Our labour for the Lord is informed by our looking to His return.
 - 4)** Christians are to be patient people - for we are waiting for the return of our Lord (Titus 2:13; Mt 6:10).