

Conversion

Exemplary Christians

1. Chosen by God – 1:4

2. Called by God

Externally – 1:5

Internally – 2:13

Acts 16:14 – God opened her heart to respond to the things spoken to her by Paul.

Acts 13:48 – those who had been appointed to eternal life believed.

John 6:44 – no one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.

3. Changed lives – v. 3

In this (v. 6), **imitators of us and of the Lord...**

Luke 1:16 –

Mark 4:12 –

Acts 3:19 –

Acts 26:20 –

Notice how it was the Conversion of the Thessalonians that caused the Gospel to be “sounded forth” in the surrounding region... v. 8-9a

1) Turning from Idols

It was part of Paul’s message to the Gentiles...

Acts 14:15 - ...we preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things and to a living God.

It also was part of regular Christian teaching...

1 Corinthians 10:14 – flee idolatry

Colossians 3:5 – put to death idolatry

1 Peter 4:3 – the time is past for idolatries

1 John 5:21 – guard yourself from idols

According to the Heidelberg Catechism, Q95, “Idolatry is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God...”

According to the New City Catechism, Q17, “Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.”

2) Turned to God

a) To Slave for God

b) To Wait for Jesus

Expectancy

Self-denial