

1 Thessalonians 1

The Gospel of Power

Proposition: *The Gospel's power is proven in the life of the Church.*

I. Faith's Work

- a. Before the God the Father (v. 2, 3)
 - a.i. *In offerings of praise.*
 - a.ii. *In offerings of thanks.*
- b. An Example to Mankind (vv. 6-8)
 - b.i. *Before the Church*
 - b.ii. *Before the watching world*

II. Love's Labor

- a. Turning from Idols (vv. 3, 9)
 - a.i. *False worship.*
 - a.ii. *Evil conduct.*
- b. Serving God (vv. 3, 9; cf. 4:9, 10)
 - b.i. *True worship.*
 - b.ii. *Right conduct.*

III. Hope's Endurance

- a. Looking for the Second Advent (v. 3, 6, 5a)
 - a.i. *Sustained by the Holy Spirit.*
 - a.ii. *Seeking Christ from heaven.*
- b. As God's Beloved (vv. 4, 6, 10)
 - b.i. *Despised by the world.*
 - b.ii. *Chosen by God.*

IV. Our Response

- a. Is your faith *alive*? Is it *working*? Can you praise God for your progress of faith, and can others thank God for it? Does the world know you belong to Christ? *Adorn faith* with good deeds, that it may be seen!
- b. Painful Christianity is *real Christianity*. Labors of love are like giving birth. What this labor of love produces is nothing less than the fruit of the Gospel's inworking in your heart, no matter how hard the delivery may have been. Let love be labor, if it must, that it might be *real*.
- c. Do you lack *joy*? Are you feeling numb, or disturbed by the troubles of this world or your private thoughts? *Look again* to the coming of

Christ. His coming will set all pains to memory, all labors to rest, and all afflictions to rights. *Press on* toward his coming—soon!

d. *Remember* and *thank God* for the perseverance of the persecuted Church! When you see their faith in affliction, let it encourage you, challenge you, that the Gospel might have such power as it is working in you. *Pray for them*, that they might persevere.