

Sermon Handout

Evidence of Faith I Thessalonians 1:1-7

- I.** Founding the church in Thessalonica Acts 17
 - a. St. Paul preaches in the synagogue vv. 1-3
 - b. Jews accuse evangelists of attacking Caesar vv. 4-7
 - c. Disciples released, Paul goes to Berea vv. 8-10
 - d. Jews follow Paul to Berea v. 13
 - e. Paul leaves for Athens, sends for Timothy & Silas vv. 14-15

- II.** The Thessalonian letters, encouraging the saints in Thessalonica
 - a. Mentions the opposition of the Jews 2:14-16
 - b. Takes up the judgment of 70 AD in II Thess (citing Mt 23-24)
 - c. Challenging the believers to be not dissuaded from their hope

- III.** Faithfulness in Christ's church
 - a. Characteristics in evidence v. 3 (*cf.* Rev 2:2)
 - i. Work of faith
 - ii. Labor of love
 - iii. Endurance of hope
 - 1. in our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 2. in the sight of God our Father
 - b. Paul's thankful prayers for them v. 2
 - i. "making mention"
 - ii. Knowing their election by God v. 4
 - iii. Delivered through the gospel by the Holy Spirit
 - iv. Became followers of Christ by following their teacher v. 6a
cf. I Cor 11:1; 4:16-17; II Tim 2:1-3
 - v. Persevered with joy in the Holy Spirit v. 6b
 - vi. Became examples for others to follow v. 7

- IV.** The passage reveals what genuine evidence of true faith looks like
 - a. Not a one-time profession
 - b. Not a dramatic manifestation
 - c. Not everyone under his vine & fig tree
 - d. But a community of faith, love, endurance