

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	1 Thessalonians 1:1-7
Monday	1 Corinthians 1:1-31; Psalm 119:9-16; Proverbs 25:6-8
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Psalm 119:17-32; Proverbs 25:9-11
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 3:1-23; Psalm 119:33-40; Proverbs 25:12-14
Thursday	1 Corinthians 4:1-5:13; Psalm 119:41-48; Proverbs 25:15-17
Friday	1 Corinthians 6:1-7:16; Psalm 119:49-56; Proverbs 25:18-21
Saturday	1 Corinthians 7:17-40; Psalm 119:57-64; Proverbs 25:22-25

DEVOTIONAL: READ 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-7

Paul opens his letter to the Thessalonians by recognizing their faithfulness and thanking them. He came to them sharing the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection; and God worked in power through that simple story to completely change the lives of those who believed. Through the gospel, the Thessalonians discovered that they were loved and chosen by God, and they began to model their lives after the self-giving love of Jesus.

The gospel story of Jesus' life, death on our behalf, and resurrection is not simply a story. Too often we can have a tendency to see the gospel of Jesus as something that happened long ago, seeming distant and unsubstantial. Sometimes we could even say we believe Jesus paid the penalty for our sins but not understand how that makes a difference in our daily lives.

Paul reminds us in this letter that the gospel is not merely a story, but it is the power of God to change lives.

Not only did this change the lives of believers in Thessalonica, but it also quickly began to change the lives of others, even transforming the Roman world. The Thessalonians became a model for all the believers in their province and even extended their influence to other regions. It would be like seeing radical life-change from within our communities multiply our influence to churches all over the Southeast and Midwest.

Is it possible to see radical life-change today? Yes! The gospel story is not just a story. It is still the means by which God changes our world. As our transformed lives model Jesus' extravagant love, our world will be transformed too!

REFLECTION

What is the gospel? Write out what Jesus has done for you in your own words and thank Him.

Who has modeled for you what it means to follow Jesus? How so? Is there someone you could ask to help mentor you in what it means to follow Jesus? (This is the process called discipleship.)

How have you seen the gospel-impact others around you? Is there someone you could meet with to help them follow Jesus?

DISCUSSION

Who in your life are you thankful for?

PRAYER

God, thank You that through Christ I am adopted into Your family. Continue to build my faith. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, give me a deeper understanding of Your Word, and by Your grace, empower me to come into alignment with Your will.

Lord, place people in my life who can show me how to better follow You. Speak into my life through Your church and the people who know You. Give me the wisdom and humility to learn from others and to see how You have worked in their lives.

Place people around me that I can have an eternal impact on. Use me to make Yourself known to others and show me who I can teach the things You have taught me. Don't let me keep Your grace and goodness to myself.

Give me a greater revelation of Your steadfast love for me, and from that revelation, stir my heart to love others well. You are all I need. I rest in Your complete sufficiency today. Amen.