

LET THE WORD RING OUT**PSALM 99:1-9:1 // THESSALONIANS 1:1-10****MONDAY 10/23/23**

Psalm 99:1-9 // 1 The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 // 1 This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and 2 we always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly.

REFLECTION The church in Thessalonica is a community in which the faith of Christ is strong. St Paul continued to take them under his wing and cautioned them that darkness is raging against them. So, Paul encourages them by sending Silas and Timothy to cheer them up and affirm them. The formation of all early Christian churches needed to have the central message of Christ risen from the dead. Both of them encouraged them to hold fast to their faith. They remained patient, and began to prepare to endure anything for the gospel. Any church that goes through this process of seeking the mission of the church needs to stand firm in their faith and trust God in the process. The only way to hold fast to the truth is to accept and believe the Holy Spirit will guide you. The message of the gospel is clear and firm. Let us rejoice knowing we reflect God's grace by being adorned with serious endowments to carry forth the Message. When we do we will reach the desires of God.

PRAYER Lord Jesus your reign makes the hearts of the people tremble. When I first heard your Word it made me tremble with guilt and shame. Thank you lifting me up by your love. In Jesus Name, Amen.

TUESDAY 10/24/23

Psalm 99:1-9///2 Great is the Lord in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. 3 Let them praise your great and awesome name—he is holy.
 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10///3 As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION A church that is faithful to the Lord and provides a place for loving deeds will be a blessing to those in spiritual need. The Thessalonians tended to be people who work out their gifts of faith with the labor of warmth and tenderness. Paul prays diligently on their behalf because he sees their many gifts. When a body of Christ shines forth the gifts of grace, the more welcoming they become. We too have a sacred bonding with Christ which unites us together with one mind. Even when attacked and suffering under the Roman government they stood firm. Some members were stripped of their wealth. Some were fugitives from other countries. Many were destitute and weak in faith. They all however had great hope in God. Romans 8:24 “For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?”(NLT) Paul urges us all to be patient in our waiting for the Lord's return. We need to be people who are solid Christians, being filled with a vigor for our neighbors.

PRAYER Great are you Lord Jesus of heaven and earth. I pray and exalt your name which is above all names. Help me this week to praise your great works among others. In Jesus Name, Amen.

WEDNESDAY 10/25/23

Psalm 99:1-9///4 The King is mighty, he loves justice— you have established equity; in Jacob you have done what is just and right. 5 Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; is holy.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10/// 4 We know, dear brothers and sisters, that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own people. 5 For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you.

REFLECTION The election of God is not a topic of many preachers today. I think that is sad. God is sovereign and loving and kind and he draws us to himself. In the reading for today God demonstrates his love by creating the Thessalonians' community of believers. Paul is affirming them because they are illustrating God's grace has



changed them. In other words, God willingly laid his love upon them. Paul sees this remarkable act and says now their calling is to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ. These people show the visual markings of God's power among them. The first is the visual evidence of their sure election. It was not just preaching the Word that brought them to this honor, but the work of the Holy Spirit actively working in their lives. No matter their previous condition the power of the Spirit transformed them. Paul was excited to recognize them as his colleagues. This sovereign power of God is the spiritual energy for us to believe In Christ.

PRAYER O' Holy King of kings you are mighty and you love justice. I praise your Holy Name Lord Jesus for what you have done to me and what you have done for me. May the people of Plainwell and Otsego gather together in their churches this week with joy. May they stand before you and exalt you, Lord God, in prayer and worship. In Jesus Name, Amen.

THURSDAY 10/26/23

Psalm 99:1-9///6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on his name; they called on the Lord and he answered them.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10///6 So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord. 7 As a result, you have become an example to all the believers in Greece—throughout both Macedonia and Achaia.

REFLECTION Paul is telling us our minds and hearts need to be purged and this will cause us pain and suffering. When the truth of Christ comes upon us we begin to be changed and naturally become imitators of Christ. From my own experience, that did not feel right in the beginning. Once we have embraced the love of God and accepted it, life changes. Verse 6 “So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord”. These imitators of God believed God and became examples of God's people just like the people of Exodus. . Exodus 14:13: “Moses answered the people, Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.” NLT God's grace gives us the power to be his witnesses and instruments of glory. We will suffer from time to time for the gospel, though being imitators of Jesus Christ is still right. God presented himself to the Thessalonians with a willing Spirit and showed them their sinful nature. What amazes me is they eagerly obey God. I pray God will do that again among the pagans with which we live. The work of God's Spirit is essential to turn the tide and change lives. Just look at how much God's grace has changed you. The truth is Christ cannot be sincerely received unless it be with a joyful heart!

PRAYER From Moses and Aaron's mouths to my mouth today, we proclaim you are our God. You continue to guide me out of the wilderness and bring me home to glory. I praise you Lord God for answering my many prayers. In Jesus Name, Amen.

FRIDAY 10/27/23

Psalm 99:1-9///7 He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud; they kept his statutes and the decrees he gave them. 8 Lord our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God, though you punished their misdeeds.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10///8 And now the word of the Lord is ringing out from you to people everywhere, even beyond Macedonia and Achaia, for wherever we go we find people telling us about your faith in God. We don't need to tell them about it.

REFLECTION The ringing out of the Word of God is not only a blessing to receive, but a privilege to give. In verse 8 “the word of the Lord is ringing out from you”. The Thessalonians have become renowned for the power of the Spirit in them. They proclaim Christ as the messenger of God’s redemptive plan. Before the Lord enlightened them, they were worshipping idols and addicted to idolatry. They were imposters like the devil, and believed in every kind of superstition. They were completely alienated from God and his goodness. There is nothing in us that draws us to God, but God moves towards us. This again is proof God acts first upon us and converts our hearts and minds. When we have faith we give full credit to God. He brings us out of the darkness and frees us from our sin. When we renounce our vanity, it shows God is at work in us. Before the Thessalonians turned to worship God they worshipped pagan idols and were filled with superstitions. They lived vulgar lives worshipping false gods of all sorts. But when they heard the good news of Jesus Christ they were induced to serve and obey the one true God. Romans 6:16-19 19 Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy. 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. 21 And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. NLT

PRAYER Lord God, you once spoke to your people from the pillar of a cloud. Now, Lord God you speak to us by reading your word and embracing it for our lives. Thank you for coming in the flesh to teach us your love, compassion and forgiveness. .In Jesus Name, Amen.

SATURDAY 10/28/23

Psalm 99:1-9///9 Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy mountain, for the Lord our God is holy.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10/// 9 For they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God. 10 And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God’s Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.

REFLECTION What is so refreshing about this conversation is the Thessalonians are turning away from their superstitions and idols. They are making great progress in their devotion to the Lord. As a result they are giving up their profane and brutish life style. Those ancient myths and vulgar activities no longer attract their attention. What happened? They have been touch by Paul’s preaching and the power of the Spirit. They have been exposed to God’s grace and now live exemplifying lives for Christ. They have been delivered from the wrath of God. Romans 3:2-24 20 “For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. 21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses[a] and the prophets long ago. 22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. 23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” NLT I pray this message is finally clear for all who read it. Let the “Word of God ring out” to all your families and friends. Let us exemplify the secret delights of the spiritual life.

PRAYER I will exalt you Lord God in worship this week and I will bow my head and lift my heart to you. Help me to ring out the Word that your Son lives and is magnificent and his work Divine. In Jesus Name, Amen.

