

Tract Number Seven  
“Being an Effective Sounding Board”

NOTES FROM THE TEXTBOOK



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I Thessalonians 1:8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God is spread abroad, so that we need not to speak anything.

**T**he church in Thessalonica (Greece) must be one of the great example churches of the New Testament when it comes to zeal and fervency. They abounded in faith and charity. Still, as nothing human on earth is perfect, there were some defects. Some had too exclusively dwelt on the doctrine of Christ's coming, so as to neglect their day to day duties. Nevertheless, the Apostle Paul wrote this letter of Commendation and provides for us, doctrines of great hope.

In the above scripture, Paul speaks of the testimony of the Christians in Thessalonica, of their far reaching effect both in Northern and Southern Greece (Macedonia and Achaia). The key words which share insight are “sounded out” the idea being a sounding board or a backdrop which projects sound.

There were many good things which characterized this church and made them “an effective sounding board”, but three things stand out in chapter one: they received the Word (verse 6) They turned to God from idols (verse 9) They waited for the Son from heaven (verse 10).

**F**irst, they received the Word. Whenever the Word of God is preached, it is received either as from men or as from God. Our attitude toward the Bible is most important.

What made these believers effective was they received the message of the Bible, not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God. When such messages are accepted it produces new life in the individual followed by righteous living. What assessment do you make once you hear the Word, as from men or as from God?

**S**econd, they turned to God from idols. A Biblical definition of idolatry is “to change the glory of the incorruptible God into images made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things” (Romans 1:23) It is a sad commentary in the lives of so many who fail to see God as something other than tangible possessions.

John tells us that, God is Spirit - because of this, God constantly seeks men and women to worship Him as such. The Thessalonians made a rational decision, when they turned to God in worship and ceased from serving idols.

**T**hird, they waited for the Son from heaven. Nothing purifies the life of the Christian like anticipating the return of Jesus Christ from heaven. The second coming of Christ was the proclamation of the angels to the men of Galilee. “This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11)

There were no questions in the mind of the Christians in Thessalonica concerning this report, they just simply believed it. Some had even given up all in order to sit and wait for Christ’s coming. It appears that Christians today are quite the opposite. Many have entangled themselves with the affairs of this life as though Christ shall never return.

However, we should maintain a balance in life. We should involve ourselves with life in meeting its demands; but we should also live in such a manner that Jesus Christ could intervene at any moment.

May God help us to see the importance of our effect on today’s society that the end result will be to the good of mankind and the Glory of God!