

3 Living to Proclaim God's Glory

- 1 | Remembering our New Birth (1:3-9)
- 2 | Realizing personal Holiness (1:13-21)
- 3 | Recovering the Power of the Gospel (1:22-2:3)

3.1 SIDELINE: A Case Study in the Power of the Gospel

- » **Acts 17:1-7** Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 17:2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on **three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures**, 17:3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ." 17:4 And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. 17:5 But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd. 17:6 And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "*These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also*," 17:7 and Jason has received them, and *they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.*
- » **1 Thessalonians 1:2-10** We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 1:3 remembering before our God and Father your work of **faith** and labor of **love** and steadfastness of **hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1:4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 1:5 because our **gospel** came to you not only in **word**, but also in **power** and in the **Holy Spirit** and with **full conviction**. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 1:6 And you became **imitators of us and of the Lord**, for you **received the word** in much **affliction**, with the **joy** of the Holy Spirit, 1:7 so that you became an **example** to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 1:8 For not only has **the word of the Lord sounded forth from you** in Macedonia and Achaia, but **your faith** in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. 1:9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how **you turned** to God from idols **to serve** the living and true God, 1:10 and **to wait** for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- ▶ The Word of the Gospel
- ▶ The power, the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Full conviction
- ▶ Became Imitators
- ▶ Affliction (*Communitas*, not community)

““We can define *communitas* as the type of community that develops in the context of danger, an ordeal, or an overwhelming task. It happens when, faced with such a challenge, the participants ‘find each other’ in a new and deeper way. The social bonds are strengthened and restructured. Friends become comrades.” [Alan Hirsch, *The Forgotten Ways Handbook*, 169-170)

- ▶ Joy of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Became Examples
- ▶ The Word went Forth
- ▶ To, To Serve, To Wait

3.2 **Back to 1 Peter: Christ is the Cornerstone of God’s New Spiritual House**

» **1Peter 2:4-10** As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 2:5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 2:6 For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

2:7 So the honor is for you who believe,
but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

2:8 and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

- ▶ The Spiritual House
- ▶ Christ: The Cornerstone
- ▶ Honor and Shame: Rejected by people, honored by God

3.2.1 **We have a new purpose as God's People:**

» **1 Peter 2:9-10** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, **that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.** 2:10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- ▶ Chosen Race
- ▶ Royal Priesthood (see Exodus 19)
- ▶ A Holy Nation (see Exodus 19)
- ▶ People for God's Own Possession (see Exodus 19)
- ▶ To Proclaim the excellencies/virtues of God (see Isaiah 43:20-21)
 - ***You are the only "expert" on the ways in which God has worked in your life.**
- ▶ Once not a people, now the people of God (see Hosea 2:23)

3.2.2 **Holy Living brings Glory to God:**

» **1 Peter 2:11-12** Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 2:12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, **they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.**

- ▶ Honorable conduct
- ▶ Good deeds lead to glorifying God

1 | Built up in Unity (**Security**)

2 | Designed for **Significance**

3 | Set apart for a Holy Purpose (**Satisfaction/Fulfillment**)

3.3 The Power of Multiplication

If you were to lead just 2 people to Christ, teach them the basics of the faith so that they could reach two others:

What if everybody in this class set this as a goal?

Gen 01	2	100
Gen 02	4	200
Gen 03	8	400
Gen 04	16	800
Gen 05	32	1600
Gen 10	1,024	51,200
Gen 20	1,048,576	52,428,800
Gen 30	1,073,741,824	53,687,091,200

3.3.1 Putting it All in Eternal Perspective:

» **1 Thessalonians 2:17-20** But when we were separated from you, brothers and sisters, for a short time (in presence, not in affection) we became all the more fervent in our great desire to see you in person. 2:18 For we wanted to come to you (I, Paul, in fact tried again and again) but Satan thwarted us. 2:19 **For who is our hope or joy or crown to boast of before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not of course you? 2:20 For you are our glory and joy!**