

Election and Evangelism

Introduction: Today we examine the church in Thessalonica from its origin and see the part evangelism played in reaching God's elect.

I) God selects His people.

- A) Noah, Abraham, Moses, Samuel, etc.
- B) Today He calls them to Jesus -*John 17:2,6,9,11-12,24; John 15:6; Ephesians 1:4.*

II) God uses people to reach His elect.

- A) He backs their message with the Holy Spirit -*1 Thessalonians 1:5; Romans 1:16.*
- B) The evangelists' gospel is also backed by their lifestyle -*v5-6.*
- C) True evangelists care for the church -*Hebrews 13:17.*

III) Persecution often follows election.

- A) Turning from idols -*1 Thessalonians 2:14-15; 2 Timothy 3:12.*

IV) The work of the Spirit must be evident.

- A) The Spirit spawns faith, love and hope.
- B) There are unbelievers in the church -*Romans 8:9,11; Matt 24:10-11; Mark 13:22.*
- C) The Thessalonians showed the Spirit's influence -*v7-10.*

V) Paul struggled to reach the elect in Corinth but persevered.

- A) God encouraged him -*Acts 18:9-10.*
- B) Perseverance in the Spirit paid off -*v11.*
- C) Salvation is God's work -*2 Thessalonians 2:14; Zechariah 4:6.*

VI) Paul's methods for reaching the elect with the gospel.

- A) Reasoned: asking question which provoked thought and discourse -*Acts 17:2.*
- B) Explained: clarified scripture by giving it's context and meaning -*Acts 17:3.*
- C) Proved: show the harmony of scripture as it pointed to Jesus, as Jesus did -*Luke 24:27.*

Conclusion: Just like Paul, Silas and Timothy, God has called us to reach His elect with the gospel and a righteous lifestyle they might imitate. We, too, should be able to reason, explain and prove the reasons for our faith. The crisis of our time demands responsible evangelists of the gospel. If we are God's elect, we must be evangelists, too.