"CHOSEN FOR SURE!"

1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

8-27-2025

You can be sure that God chose you! (v. 4)

How do you know? 2 major evidences

I. THOSE GOD CHOOSES, HE <u>CONVICTS</u> (v. 5)

A. God Sends Conviction By An Empowered <u>Message</u> (V. 5a)

B. God Sends Conviction By An Exemplary <u>Messenger</u> (V. 5b)

II. THOSE GOD CHOOSES, HE <u>CHANGES</u> (v. 6-10)

Evidences of a changed life:

God gives you -

A. A <u>Life</u> Worth <u>Copying</u> (V. 6-7)

B. A <u>Faith</u> Worth <u>Sharing</u> (V. 8)

C. A <u>God</u> Worth Serving (V. 9)

D. A <u>Savior</u> Worth <u>Waiting For</u> (V. 10)

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"CHOSEN FOR SURE!"

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INTRODUCTION:

I'll never know why (out of the millions of people in the world) God chose me. Why did God save us?

Certainly not because of any of our goodness.

But because He loved us (NOTE: V. 4 "beloved" - lit. having been loved, God chose you).

How do I know God chose me?

The answer is simple: "I chose Him!"

I would never have chosen Him if He had now drawn me, and He would never have chosen me if I had not chosen Him!

This thought is almost paradoxical. Who chose whom? He chose me and I chose Him. Divine sovereignty and man's free will (SEE II Thes. 2:13)

Paul was confident that the people at Thessalonica were elected (chosen) by God. How did he know? How do you know He chose you?

There are those today who say, "You can't know for sure." "You can't be positive that you are saved and on your way to Heaven." They say, "Such a thing is presumptuous."

But is it? Not according to this passage.

* **You can be sure that God chose you! (v. 4)**

How do you know? 2 major evidences:

I. THOSE GOD CHOOSES, HE CONVICTS (V. 5)

"For" = because

Paul was sure they were saved because he remembered the effectiveness of the Gospel (good news) (cp. v. 3).

It touched their hearts and wills.

A. God Sends Conviction By An Empowered Message (v. 5a)

v. 5

"Came" = lit. was caused (made) to come (passive verb). God sent it and empowered it.

"Word only" - Many traveling teachers, preachers and philosophers in Paul's day were only peddling the gospel to make money off of ignorant people (cp. 2:3-5)

Preaching that is in "word only" is dead and lifeless.

ILLUS: Some rabbi or priest that stands up and recites some dry, dusty creed or memorized prayer, etc., does nothing to change the lives of the listeners.

We need Heaven-sent:

1) "Power" - It's a powerful conviction (- "dynamite")
The gospel is powerful (Ro. 1:16; I Cor. 2:4)

2) "Holy Spirit" - It's a personal conviction (person to person. The Holy Spirit is a person not a force).

3) "Much assurance" - It's a believable conviction. "Assurance" = a certainty or confidence.

B. God Sends Conviction By An Exemplary Messenger (v. 5b)

Our witnessing is in vain without God's power! And God's power will not work without human effort (someone must preach the truth and live the truth).

SEE I Thes. 2:10.

We ought to live right for the sake of others!

No man is an island unto himself. Your life affects others, either for heaven or hell!

II. THOSE GOD CHOOSES, HE CHANGES (v. 6-10)

Evidences of a changed life: God gives you -

A. A Life Worth Copying (v. 6-7)

V. 6

"Followers" = imitators or mimickers.

They copied Paul, Silas and Timothy, and ultimately the Lord (v. 6), then became examples themselves (v. 7) for others to copy or pattern their lives after.

There is nothing wrong with following the Godly virtues in someone's life as long as you are copying that which makes them Christ-like, not their own personal idiosyncracies.

I Cor. 11;1 - "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

We are to show others:
1)a "pattern of good works" (Tit. 2:7)
2)a faith worth following - follow the faith of your pastor (Heb. 13:7)

Heb. 6:12 - "That ye be not slothful, but followers of then who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

"Much affliction" = when God radically changes a life, that is intimidating. A believer's life will anger many friends and relatives.

"No doubt many lost their jobs because of their new faith. Just as the Jewish unbelievers persecuted the believers in Judea, so the Gentile unbelievers persecuted the Thessalonian believers (2:14-16). Faith is always tested, and persecution is one of the tests (Mt. 13:21; II Tim. 3:12)." (Wiersbe, p. 28).

--When you welcome God's Word when undergoing trouble (pressure) for it - you are worth following.

--When you welcome God's Word with a Holy Spirit-inspired joy - you are worth taking note of.

Only a changed man will receive God's Word this way.

Just as a newborn baby needs a family, a newborn Christian needs the family of believers - a local church and the leaders there.
V. 7

ILLUS: of how (in the printing trade) you go to a good original to copy from (to reproduce).

NOTE: These Thes. believers were not merely examples to the lost, but examples to the saved! And this is much harder to be.

Before you were saved, what did you have that was really worth copying?

Did you have love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, meekness, etc.?

God has saved men whose lives were wastes, but now are profitable. They were shameful, but now are shining; disgraceful, but now are delightful; they were losers, but now are leaders.

B. A Faith Worth Sharing (v. 8)

V. 8

The Thessalonians were both "receivers" (the Word came to them, 1:5) and "transmitters" (the Word went out from them, v. 8) (Wiersbe, p. 29)

"Sounded out" - The word suggests an echoing like thunder or sounding out as a trumpet. NOTE: They were not "tooting their own horn" either (Wiersbe, p. 29), but the "Word of the Lord."

Perfect tense - shows continuing results. The word is still echoing.

Not a shy, timid witness!

God can mightily use your testimony!

Macedonia - northern province of Greece

Achaia - Southern province of Greece

The Word went even beyond this! (II Thes. 3:1 - "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified even as it is with you"

After I got saved, God gave me something worth talking about.

NOTE: Election does not remove your responsibility to witness. Some say: "God will save those He wants to save; He doesn't need my help."

I'm glad the man who brought me the gospel didn't feel that way.

C. A God Worth Serving (v. 9)

V. 9

"Shew of us" = are reporting about us.

What a blessing it is to a preacher's heart to see changed lives.
--360 changed lives!

Repentance is always negative and positive. Turning from and turning to. You don't have salvation unless you have both!

The living God is not merely one who is alive, but one who gives life.

"Living" - "Christians are 'children of the living God' (Ro. 9:26). Their bodies are the 'temples of the living God' (II Cor. 6:16, indwelt by the 'Spirit of the living God' (II Cor. 3:3). The church is 'the church of the living God' (I Tim. 3:15), and for His church, God is preparing 'the city of the living God' (Heb. 12:22). The living God has given us a living hope by raising His Son Jesus Christ from the dead." (Wiersbe, p. 31)

"True" = genuine, real
as opposed to false idols.

Idolatry - cp. Ps. 115.

Everyone has a god!

If it is not something tangible, it is an "idol in your heart"

For some their god is money (materialism)
For some their god is themselves (humanism)

Anything other than "the God" (def. article in Greek) is a vain, worthless, hollow idol which cannot speak, hear or do anything.

Contrary to God who is "living"!

Our God is worth serving!

"Serve" = lit. to become a totally devoted slave to (a bond slave)

D. A Savior Worth Waiting For (V. 10)

"To wait" = to expectantly wait for; to anticipate continually His arrival.

Why is our Savior worth waiting for? He is going to save (rescue) us "out of" ( ) the coming anger ("wrath") of God in the Tribulation.

"Delivered" = present tense - jesus is the one who is rescuing us from the great danger ahead
(SEE I Th. 5:9)

V. 10

Just as God raised Christ from (out of) the dead, Christ is going to rescue us from (out of) the coming Tribulation.

Rev. 3:10-11a - "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold I come quickly."

Upon what basis should we wait for Christ? On the basis that He is alive today.

"The Christian's hope of the return of Christ is rooted in the fact that He was raised from the dead" (Ryrie).

CONCLUSION:

You can be sure that God chose you!

How do you know? 2 major evidences:

1. Those God chooses, He convicts

2. Those God chooses, He changes

God gives you:

--a life worth copying
--a faith worth sharing
--a God worth serving
--a Savior worth waiting for