

Verses 9-10

In a dramatic change for that time, the Thessalonians turned from idols to God.

“Becoming a Christian” means change. It’s called conversion. The word “turn” in v9 means to change / convert. It was used outside the New Testament of something coming back to its original & proper place. **The Change** the Spirit of God effects in us isn’t so much a radical departure from our real identity, as it is a return to that real identity, the one stolen from us when we fell in Adam.

- What are some of the changes that ought to be expected in someone who has been born again?
- Why do we sometimes struggle with change?
- What role does knowing who we are in Christ play in entering in to the changes the Gospel brings?
- What are we to conclude when someone who claims to be a Christian demonstrates little to no change?
 - What can / ought we do with them?
 - That is, how can we help them?
 - What if they refuse that help?

Discussion Points for “The Change”



CALVARY OXNARD GROUPS

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First

The Gospel is supposed to bring dramatic change to life and living.

- Do you like or resist change?
- Looking back to when you *first* came to faith, what change did conversion mean *for* you / make *in* you?
- For those who have been a Jesus-follower for years, what deeper and even more significant changes has the Spirit of God wrought in you?

Discussion Points

Verses 1-3

The letter comes from a team comprised of Paul, Timothy and Silvanus (Silas).

- Have you ever been a part of a healthy team? If so, where and when?
 - What made it healthy?
- Have you ever been part of an unhealthy, dysfunctional team?
 - What made it unhealthy?
- Why is ministry often best done with a team?

- What are some evidences of real
 - Faith?
 - Love?
 - Hope?

Verses 4-5

Paul reminds them that – Both ...

- 1) The Gospel was proven among them by the power of the Holy Spirit, AND by
- 2) He and his team had practiced what they preached.

- What is the purpose of miracles? (there may be more than one)
- Keeping the character of God in mind, what ought His power look like when manifested in our midst?
 - How is that different from the world's ideas of power & how the enemy uses it?
- Why is it important for Christian leaders to be available, living *with & among* the people they serve?

Verses 6-8

The conversion of the Thessalonians to faith in Christ was reported far & wide.

- What reputation ought Christians have in their community?

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