



# 1 Thessalonians 1

How the Gospel Changes People

# How the Gospel Changes People

- Change is difficult, but people do change, for something to change us has to get deeply inside us
- Paul had planted this church, now < 1 year later, writes in response to Timothy's report
- They had changed – motivation and dealing with affliction, and these changes occurred at the deep relationship level, but how?

# 1 – The Gospel Came to Them

- The gospel comes with ‘words’
- But also with ‘power’
- Also there’s a relationship – the Holy Spirit
- And there’s ‘assurance’ – they rested in, or believed those words

## 2 – They turned away from something

- They didn't hear the gospel in a vacuum – they were already committed to something else
- There is always something else that we are relying on or leaning on for 'salvation'
- It's possible to do this in a very religious way
- Hearing the gospel means you recognise and reject this
- Paul calls these 'idols'

# 3 – How did this happen?

- The starting point isn't no relationship – but 'wrath'
- Paul describes it as a 'rescue'
- Exodus – the bible's ultimate rescue
- God's actions will be destructive
- They can be saved ONLY if they take evasive action
- God's judgement affects EVERYONE and the only rescue is BLOOD
- Jesus' death – the ultimate rescue Lk 9:30f, the lamb of God Jn 1:29

# Christianity is a Relationship

- Still need to pay attention to those 3 areas...
- HEAR the words of the gospel
- TURN away from idols and towards God
- Commit to Jesus' RESCUE
- Dramatic changes can happen in our lives...