

Propellers

“Off to a good start” —1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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from Pastor Jeff McNicol

Question of the week: Is your new year off to a good start? Why or why not?

Introduction

“Propellers” work hard in the moment to accomplish a task, with the anticipation of what is to come. This sermon series is called “Propellers.” Why? What are some things you learned about 1 Thessalonians (cf. Acts 17:1-9)?

Prayer: Read 1 Thessalonians. As you do, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and teach in the truth that he has for you through this upcoming series. Commit to read the entire letter, each week throughout the series.

Revisit the Sermon:

1. Making progress

Three evidences of progress:

- Work produced by faith
- Labor prompted by love
- Endurance inspired by hope

Discuss some of the implications of these three evidences. Why do you think Paul chooses them? What are some ways you can develop these in your life?

2. Living transformed

Read verse 4. The transformation in the Thessalonian church was “knowable.” What are some ways Paul *knew* it was happening?

What are some transformations you want people to see in your life?

Read verses 6. Paul basically says, “imitate me.” Are you hesitant to say that? Should you be? Why or why not?

3. Being influential (cf. John 15:18-19)

The Thessalonian Christians go from “imitating” (v. 4) to being “examples” (v. 7). How do you think that process worked? How have you seen it work in your Christian life.

Paul ends with a reminder about deliverance from “the wrath to come” (v. 10). What does he mean? When and how should we talk about the wrath of God and deliverance from it?

Conclusion:

We are off to a good start in 1 Thessalonians, working hard in the moment with an anticipation of what is to come. As you read 1 Thessalonians, and listen to these sermons, be expectant. Ask God to teach you specific things, change you in specific ways.