

SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERMON

**A FAITH
THAT INSPIRES**

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

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4 AUG 2024



A FAITH THAT INSPIRES

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

AGAINST ALL EXPECTATION

- ❖ The church (*Ekklesia*) in China
- ❖ The church (*Ekklesia*) in Thessalonica

Acts 17: 1-8

- **New Believers & Community**
- **Persecution & Suffering**



Paul gave thanks to God for the Thessalonians' faith. They survived and flourished as God's community despite suffering and persecution. Theirs was a faith that inspires.

v.2 We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.

v.3 remember your work produced by faith, labour prompted by love, endurance inspired by hope in the our LORD Jesus Christ.

REASONS FOR THANKSGIVING

1. **EXPERIENCE** the fullness/power of the Gospel (v.5)
2. **READINESS** to imitate Christ/Paul and accept the cost of discipleship (v.5-6 ; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; Hebrew 12:2)
3. **BECOMING** the message (v.7-10)

EXPERIENCE the fullness / power of the Gospel (v.5)

v.5 because our Gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.

Reference: 1 Corinthians 2:4

**READINESS to imitate Christ/Paul and
accept the cost of discipleship**

(v.5-6 ; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; Hebrew 12:2)

v.5 You know how we live among you.

**v.6 You become imitators of us and of the Lord ;
in spite of the severe suffering, you welcomed
the message with joy given by the Holy Spirit**

For you brothers became imitators of God's churches in Judea which are in Christ Jesus: you suffered from your own countrymen the same things those churches suffered from the Jews who killed the Lord Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 2:14

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame Hebrews 12:2

BECOMING the message (v.7-10)

v.7 You became a model to all believers

v.8 The Lord's message rang out from you

Reflection

- **What is the Gospel to you?**
- **How has the Gospel impacted your life?**
- **What or how has it cost you to follow Christ?**
- **Is there a fear of commitment? We cannot be hobbled by fear and indecision in following Christ.**
- **How can I be a testimony where God has sent me? Would you pray to ask God to help you be the 'message'.**

A faith that inspires

- Experienced the power of the Gospel
- Resolved to follow Christ at all cost
- Faith embodied and lived out

