



**Static – Motive**  
**Sermon Discussion Questions – October 9<sup>th</sup>**

***Scripture Passages:***

**Acts 17:1-4 (NLT)** Paul and Silas then traveled through the towns of Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. <sup>2</sup> As was Paul's custom, he went to the synagogue service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people. <sup>3</sup> He explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead. He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the Messiah." <sup>4</sup> Some of the Jews who listened were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with many God-fearing Greek men and quite a few prominent women.

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 (NIV84)** Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. <sup>2</sup> We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup> We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

**1 Corinthians 15:1-6 (NIV84)** . . . I want to remind you of the gospel. . . <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved. . . <sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

**1 Thessalonians 1:6** <sup>6</sup> . . . in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

**1 Thessalonians 1:9–10 (NIV84)** . . . They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,<sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

### **Warm Up:**

Do you remember a time when there was static on the radio or the tv? What did you do to get rid of the static? If you don't remember experiencing static, think about losing signal on your phone. What do you do to fix it?

### **Discussion:**

1. Pastor Tom started off his message describing our current cultural moment. What one or two words would you use to describe the era or the time that we live in? What is it like to be alive in 2022?
2. Excerpt from Pastor Tom's message: *...Doesn't our current time feel like there is a lot of static on the line? As we look around at trends politically, socially, culturally—doesn't it seem like we have lost signal somewhere along the way and everybody is doing what they want to do?* Can you relate to this statement? Why or why not? What might be some symptoms of "static on the line" today?
3. Pastor Tom shared a description from Mark Sayers that we are living in a gray zone – a time at the end of one era and in the beginning of another. In this transition time there is confusion and static. In his message, Pastor Tom made this suggestion for how we might respond in a gray zone: *Like most of you, I see trends or decisions being made that unsettle me. I see moral compromises that trouble me as I think of my children and one day grandchildren...I am not discouraged or afraid, just troubled and my thought is, if the ALIVE community could be proactive to these trends as opposed to reactive, maybe we could actually shape the communities we are a part of. Instead of complaining about current trends, we could be constructing new trends.* Imagine for a minute a community that constructed new trends and shaped the culture around it. What might that look like? How might a community of believers begin to shape the surrounding culture? And how would we know this was happening?
4. Read the Acts 17:1-4.  
What is Paul teaching about in this passage? How might you expect people to respond to this message? How does it change your understanding of the day Paul lived in to know that after teaching this, Paul was chased out of town by an angry mob?
5. After this instance in the book of Acts, Paul wrote a letter to the church in Thessalonica. Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5.  
What stands out to you from Paul's greeting to the church here? What truths does Paul seem to emphasize here? How might these truths encourage a group of believers living in a hostile culture? How might these truths encourage us today?

6. Look back at 1 Thessalonians 1:5.

What comes to mind when you think of the gospel? If the gospel is “the good news of what God has done through the person and work of Jesus Christ...and what was accomplished through his death, burial and resurrection” how might understanding the power of the gospel impact the way we live in the face of opposition?

7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-6.

What do we know about the gospel from these verses? In his message, Pastor Tom asked this question: How would my life be different if I truly trusted the power of the Gospel? How would you answer this question? Or how has your belief in the Gospel already changed your life?

8. Toward the end of his message, Pastor Tom shared two hopes:

- I long for the power of the gospel to affect my daily walk with Jesus.
- I long to live with a focus on the power of Gospel instead of the power of me.

Which of these two longings do you relate to the most and why? What might it look like for these longings to become a reality in your life?

9. Excerpt from Pastor Tom’s message:

*The Gospel takes us from shame to honor, from fear to power, from defiled to clean, from lost to belonging, chaos to order, despair to hope, slavery to freedom, death to life, guilt to innocence—Jesus brings forgiveness and so much more.*

How has the power of the gospel already impacted your life? Take some time to celebrate and share stories with your group.

### **Next Steps:**

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:6, 9-10.

At the end of his message, Pastor Tom shared 3 ways that the power of the Gospel impacted the community in Thessalonica:

Result #1--They lived free, joy-filled lives.

Result #2--They lived forward lives.

Result #3. They lived forgiven lives

As you look through these results, which ones would you love to see more of in your own life and in your community? Take some time to pray that these results would begin to take root in your life and the lives of believers around you.

Also consider one way that you can live out the truths in 1 Thessalonians 6, 9-10 this week.