

## HOMILETIC WORKSHEET

**Passage: 1 Thess. 1:1-10**

**Date: 6/9/12**

**General Context:**

Chap. 1: Greeting & recall/celebration of their conversion

Chap. 2,3: Recall of his discipling work with them & joy/relief at hearing from them through Timothy

Chap. 4,5: Exhortations to keep growing in Christ

**Passage Structure:**

WHAT: Their conversion

HOW: God's choice (1:4); the gospel; the Spirit's conviction, and Paul (1:5); fruits of (1:3,6,8,9); their decision (1:10a); result of (1:10b)

**1. What is the main truth on which you are focusing?**

CONCISELY STATED: This passage emphasizes the necessity of conversion & describes the main elements of conversion

SUPPORT IN PASSAGE &/OR CONTEXT: The entire chapter recalls and rejoices (& calls them to rejoice) in their conversion

**2. Why is this main truth *important*?**

CONTEMPORARY ANTITHESES:

American culture views spirituality as a *process* of spiritual *self-discovery* & *self-development*.

Biblical Christianity insists that there must be an *event* (conversion) in which God gives us spiritual life that *we did not have*. This crisis event is preceded & followed by processes.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES (ME/OTHERS):

**3. How can we put this main truth into *practice*?**

ATTITUDES:

We can decide to convert to Christ!

We can rejoice in our own conversion!

We can play our biblically-informed roles in helping others to convert to Christ!

ACTIONS:

Receive Christ's forgiveness; bow to Christ's leadership

Daily recall & thank God for my conversion, and urge others to do the same.

Share the story of my conversion with non-Christians, trusting God/them to play their roles.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES (ME/OTHERS):

**4. How does this main truth relate to *God's grace*?**

NON-CHRISTIANS:

God is pursuing you! The gospel is good news! God's Spirit is convicting you!

CHRISTIANS:

God initiates others' conversion; the Spirit convicts people of their lostness & that the gospel is true.

Once we convert, we are delivered from God's wrath, and the Spirit brings hope & joy & love for Christians & the desire to share our faith.

**GOAL:** Persuade & inform non-Christians to convert; call on Christians to rejoice in their conversion

**Introduction:**

Brief letter setting  
 Read chapter >> THESIS re conversion  
 Elements of Christian conversion

**Main Outline:**

INITIATOR: God searches for us (X refs)

**CONTEXT:**

The gospel  
 The Spirit's conviction

Human agent(s)

**DECISION:**

To receive a free gift  
 To turn from/to idols/God

RESULT: delivered *forever* from judgment  
 (1:10b)

**FRUITS:**

new hope (1:3,6)  
 new love for Christians (2 Thess. 1:3)  
 desire to share faith (1:8,9)

**Conclusion:**

Christians: recall & thank God daily!  
 Non-Christians: You aren't here by  
 accident!

**Illustrations/Practical Steps/Examples/Questions**

MAP of 2<sup>nd</sup> Journey

TIMELINE: before, "X", after

Christians: recognize & rejoice; non-Christians: understand

*contra* Calvinist election & irresistible calling

3 KEY CONTRASTS

MY "BC" EXAMPLES; "Hound of Heaven"

REMEMBER: God does the heavy lifting!

*contra* "OVER-LOADERS" (Lordship)

*contra* "DILUTERS" (mental assent only)

Rom. 5:1,2 NLT – *basis* of security is FWC

Eternal perspective "shrinks" trials

MY H. S. ACQUAINTANCES; TEACHERS

NEW SONG

PAUL'S DOES THIS IN HIS LETTERS!

CHALLENGE TO CONVERT!!!