



## *BIBLE STUDY for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

**Focus Text: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1 – 10**



The focus text is Thessalonians which affirms the truth that God has chosen the Thessalonians for a specific purpose. As evidence for this, Paul cites the way in which the Holy Spirit has worked in them. This conviction that came from the Holy Spirit gives them what they need to make a difference in the world: work produced by faith, labour motivated by love and endurance inspired by hope. The reading from Genesis which refers to Moses leading the Hebrew people also cites an experience of the presence and power of God. Moses' intimate experience of the glory of God from within a cleft rock is the source of strength that he needs to lead people. For the Thessalonians, as they face their own challenges, a reminder of their first steps in faith is what they need to sustain them for the work that God has begun.

It seems as though the Thessalonian Church has become frustrated with waiting for the coming of The Kingdom of God. Some of Paul's language indicates that the Thessalonian Church might have been losing some of their original passion. In Thessalonians Paul doesn't have to warn so much about people who have brought false teachings to the Thessalonian Church, but he does remind them of the power of the Gospel that worked in them at first and has the power to continue changing the world. Thus Paul is reminding them to stick to the simple message of love and God's grace.

*(From Word and Worship – Year A 2019-2020; p289)*

*You know each of us by name, O God,  
and in your sight we have found favour,  
yet our minds cannot comprehend the vision of your glory  
or the vastness of your love.  
Grant that as we glimpse your greatness,  
reflected in your many gifts,  
we may always return to you  
the praise that is yours alone.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

