

OBTAINING THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Text: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

The abundant life is a life that is filled with "grace and peace." The original word carries with the idea of "abundance, and wealth."

The Apostle John records one of the greatest teachings of Jesus in John 10:10 - "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more **abundantly**."

These Thessalonians Paul addresses were apart of the "**church**." They had heard and accepted the "call" of God and Christ unto life eternal, and now they form a spiritual body. The ecclesia under the permanent call of Christ.

The abundant life relies on "grace...and **peace**." All the Grace of God with the bestowal of its unmerited favors upon which we constantly depend (John 1:16), together with the objective peace of God, the blessed condition when God is our friend and all is well with us in time and eternity.

Key Words:

"**Abundantly**" - (John 10:10)

perisson - This word means "over and above", Mt.5:37; "superfluous", 2 Cor.9:1; "extraordinary", Mt.5:47; "more greater", Mt.11:9; 23:14; "excessive", 2 Cor.2:7. In the text of John 10:10 it means "in full abundance".

"**Church**" - (1 Thessalonians 1:1)

ἐκκλησία - always suggests to the Greek ear the idea of καλεῖν - which means "to call" and "ἐκ" - meaning "out of." Christians are then the "**called out**," they have received and accepted the "call" of God and have thus been added by God to the church, the assembly of obedient believers Act.2:47 referred to as the church.

"**Grace**" - (1 Thessalonians 1:1)

χαρις - Those who belong to him receive of the fulness of his grace. This state of grace in which we stand (Rom.5:2-17; I Cor.1:4; 2 Cor.4:15) The Christians stand under God's gracious will as expressed in the act of redemption (Rom.6:14) Even the good news of the Gospel can be called "the grace of God."

"**Peace**" - (1 Thessalonians 1:1)

εἰρήνη - peace, tranquillity, harmony. The way of peace, that leads to peace Rom.3:17; Lk.1:79. Strive to be at peace with