

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
THE PERSON, LIVING, AND MINISTRY OF THE GOD-MEN
IN THEIR ONENESS WITH THE TRIUNE GOD
TO CARRY OUT THE ECONOMY OF GOD**

Message One

**The Person and Entrance of the God-men
and the Believers Turning to God from Idols to Serve the Living and True God
and to Await His Son from the Heavens**

Scripture Reading: Acts 17:6; 1 Thes. 1:4-10; 2:9b, 13; 5:23; Luke 1:35; Matt. 1:18, 20-23; Rom. 1:3-4;
8:29; Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11

I. “You know what kind of men we were among you”—1 Thes. 1:5b

- A. The apostles were God-men, born of God to be of the divine species; they were the same as God in life and nature but not in the Godhead—John 1:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:4.
- B. The New Testament reveals that the first God-man, the Lord Jesus, has produced many God-men in His resurrection and that these God-men are a corporate God-man, the new man—Rom. 8:3, 29; Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11:
 - 1. Because the Lord Jesus was conceived of the divine essence and born of the human essence, He was born a God-man; for His being as the God-man He has two natures—the divine nature with the divine attributes and the human nature with the human virtues—Luke 1:35; Matt. 1:18, 20-23.
 - 2. Initially, the Bible speaks of the God-man; today this God-man has become the God-men—Rom. 1:3-4; 8:29:
 - a. The Lord Jesus, the first God-man, is the prototype for the producing of the many God-men; the many God-men are His reproduction—1 Pet. 2:21; John 12:24.
 - b. God became man to have a mass reproduction of Himself and thereby produce a new kind—God-man kind—Rom. 8:3, 29.
 - c. We need to see that, as believers in Christ, we are God-men, born of God, possessing the life and nature of God, and belonging to the species of God—John 1:12-13; 3:15; 2 Pet. 1:4.
 - 3. The first God-man and the many God-men are a corporate God-man, the new man—Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11:
 - a. The first God-man, the firstborn Son of God, is the Head of this corporate God-man, and the many God-men, the many sons of God, are the Body of this corporate God-man—Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:18, 2:19.
 - b. The God-men, the regenerated children of God, constitute the new man—Eph. 5:1; 4:24.
 - c. In Christ God became man to produce a corporate God-man for the manifestation of God in the flesh as the one new man—1 Tim. 3:16; Col. 3:10-11.

II. “You turned to God from the idols to serve a living and true God”—1 Thes. 1:9:

- A. “For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance” (v. 5a); “we proclaimed to you the gospel of God” —2:9b.

- B. “When you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but even as it truly is, the word of God, which also operates in you who believe”—v. 13.
- C. To turn to God from idols is to turn away not only from the false gods, together with the devil and the demons behind them, but also from all things other than God; this is accomplished by the faith infused into the new converts by hearing the word of the gospel—1:5-6, 9b.
- D. To serve a living and true God is to serve the God who is triune—the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—Matt. 28:19:
 - 1. In 1 Thessalonians 1 the Triune God is revealed in His triune work—vv. 1, 3-6, 10.
 - 2. The Father selected us (1:1, 3-4), the Son delivers us (v. 10), and the Holy Spirit imparts and transmits the Triune God into us (vv. 5-6); such a triune work is for our enjoyment of His salvation.
 - 3. The believers are beloved of God the Father (vv. 1, 4), and having received the gospel in the power of the Spirit and with the joy of the Spirit, they become imitators of the Lord (vv. 5-6).
 - 4. The Triune God has been processed in His economy to be the believers’ life and life supply for their enjoyment—2 Cor. 13:14:
 - a. The believers should experience Him not only as the object of their worship but also as the all-inclusive Supplier who lives in them—Phil. 4:19.
 - b. This experience is brought about by love produced within the believers by the sweet taste of the rich supply of the Father, through the Son, and in the Spirit—2 Cor. 13:14.

III. As those who serve the living and true God, we “await His Son from the heavens, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath which is coming”—1 Thes. 1:10:

- A. Because we are awaiting the Son of God from the heavens, our future is focused on Him.
- B. Our life declares that we have no hope on earth and no positive destiny in this age, and that our hope is the coming of the Lord, who is our destiny forever—v. 10; 4:13-18; 2 Thes. 1:7, 10.
- C. This governs, holds, and keeps our Christian life for the church life—1 Thes. 1:1; 5:23.