

IMITATORS & EXAMPLES

A Series in 1 Thessalonians



Scripture Reading:

1 THESSALONIANS

1:1 – 10



IMITATION IS THE FOUNDATION OF HUMAN LEARNING.

“Imitation is not only the sincerest form of flattery, it’s the sincerest form of learning.”

- G.B. Shaw

CELEBRITIES FIND IT ANNOYING

Oscar Wilde:

“Imitation is the sincerest compliment
mediocrity can pay to greatness.”

INNOVATORS CALL IT THEFT

Is this a compliment or a crime?



SOPHISTICATED PEOPLE FIND IT OFFENSIVE

"I'm original. I'm not an imitator!"

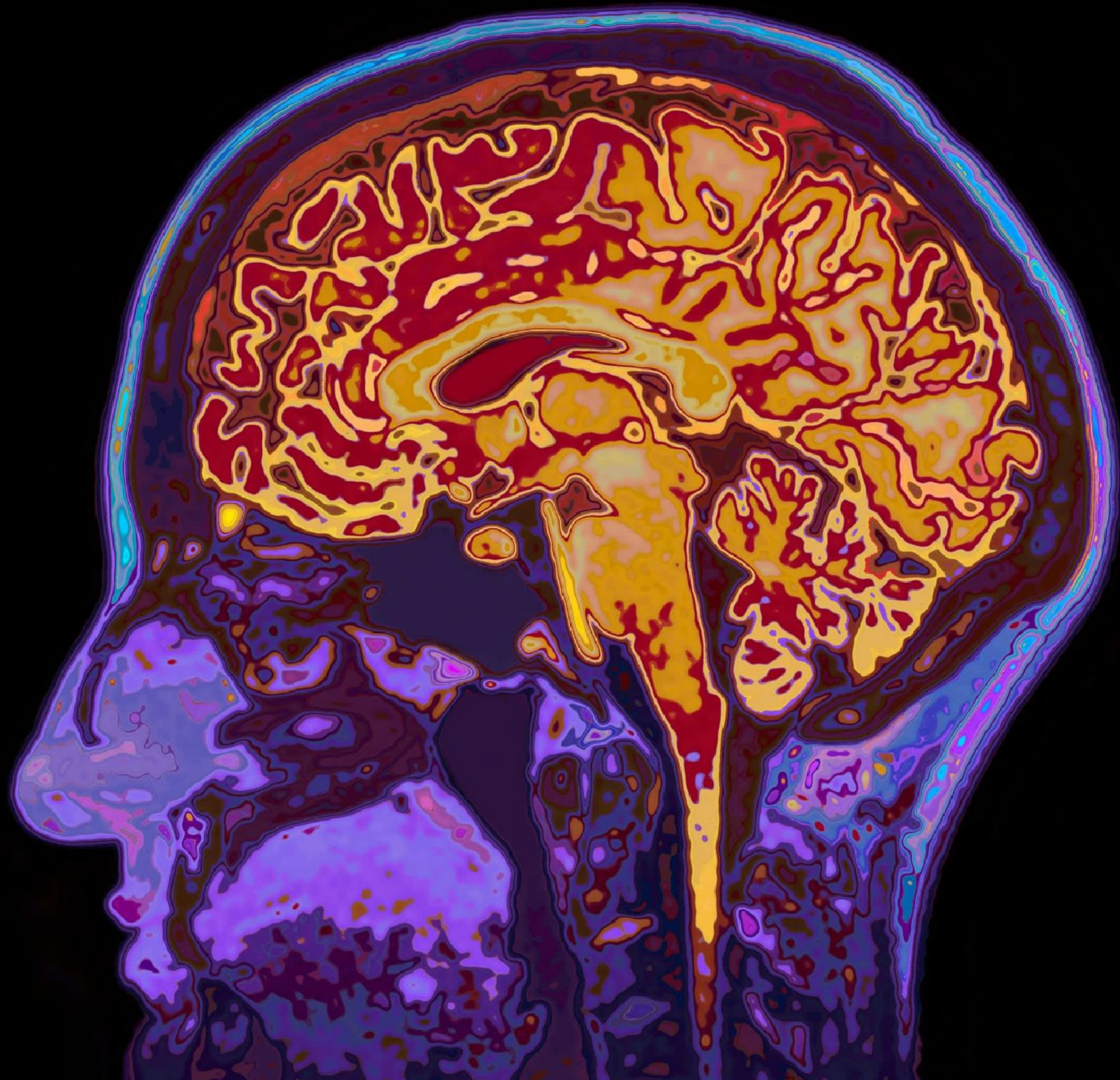
Search: 'Devil wears
prada sweater scene'



SPORTS AIN'T HAVIN' IT.



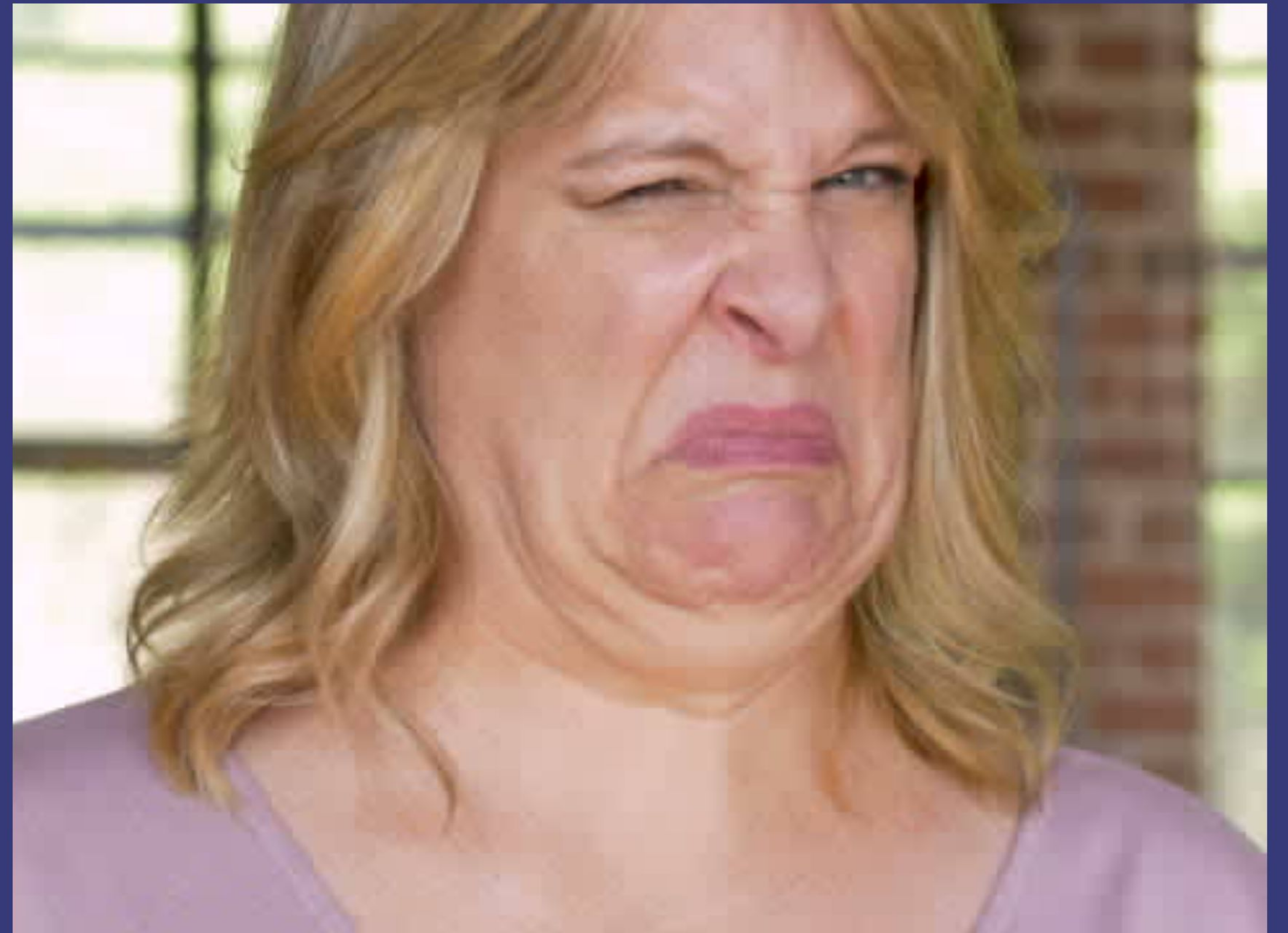
SCIENCE DISCOVERS WHAT WISDOM KNEW



Brains
Robots
Babies
Economics
Success

HOW ABOUT YOU?

"You should
get a mentor."



GOD'S COMMITMENT TO IMITATION

Made in his image and godliness

The Law

Faith – operative trust

Romans 8:28 – 29

John 15

Jesus "disciples"

Criteria for Elders

Mission: "makes disciples"

1 Thessalonians – whole book

IMITATING JESUS MEANS IMITATING HIS EXAMPLES.

"You became imitators of us, and of the Lord.. And so you became became a model to all the believers.."

1 Thessalonians 1:6 - 7

IMITATE WHAT? (4 HERE)

- 1. Conversion**
- 2. Joy/Worship**
- 3. Discipleship**
- 4. Witness**

1. CONVERSION—WE IMITATE THOSE JESUS HAS PERSUADED

1 Thessalonians 1:9 – 10

**“..for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—
Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.”**

HAVE IT WHICH WAY?

Conversion

Changing your mind when you meet persuasive evidence that warrants turning from your prejudices and some former beliefs.

Bigotry

Unwillingness to change your mind when coming into contact with persuasive new information that warrants a change of mind.

IMITATING JESUS' EXAMPLES MEANS SOUND CONVERSION

Conversion is a noble and necessary recognition of how we have gone wrong, and what we must see rightly as the truth.

2. WORSHIP—WE IMITATE THOSE WHO VALUE THE GOSPEL WITH JOY

1 Thessalonians 1:6

You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16 – 18

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For **our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.**

ROMANS 8:17 – 18

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. **I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.**

WORSHIPFUL JOY

Our gain in Christ overwhelms all the costs of the Curse.

Seeing and savoring God's goodness and beauty is the foundational pursuit of my transformation. For how can I imitate one I don't adore and toward whose beauty I aspire?

THRIVING ENDURANCE

The delicate means of driving vigorous and vigilant endurance through soothing assurance.

1 Thessalonians 1:4 – 5

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.

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