

# Do You Need To Say Anything?

By Justin Morton

We can certainly tell what time of year it is by observing the things around us. The leaves are starting to change colors and before long those very same leaves will slowly begin to fall off the trees and infest our yards, making for some long hours of clean-up. The daytime temperatures are beginning to drop down from the usual summertime highs, making for some brisk night air. And perhaps the most telling display of all is the weekend garb and tailgating that takes place all over the country, but especially right here in the heart of the south.

On any given Saturday if you go into a public establishment and look around, it will only take a few minutes for it to become evident that it's football season. During this time of year people will proudly dress in the colors of their favorite team, sometimes even resorting to wearing hideous outfits, all in support of "their team." They walk around proudly boasting and wanting people to know who they support and cheer for, all for the sake of a game.

When Paul wrote his first letter to the church at Thessalonica, he said, *"So that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything"* (I Thess. 1:7-8).

Paul was commending these relative "babes" in Christ because their faith had spread throughout the region. Thessalonica was a port city along the important Egnatian Way, which was heavily traveled. The people who visited Thessalonica took notice of the faith of these Christians and spread the word about their noticeable change. They noticed three things about the Christians in Thessalonica (1:9-10): 1) They had turned from idols, 2) They served God, 3) They waited and longed for the return of Jesus from heaven.

It's one thing to be noticed because of the team we support every Saturday during the fall. It's quite another thing to be noticed because of our change in behavior due to our ever increasing faith in God and His son. The Christians in Thessalonica did not have to wear certain garments with flashy colors in order to indicate whose team they supported. Their allegiance was evident by the way they lived out their faith through their everyday lives.

May we, like the Christians in Thessalonica, live in such a way that we don't need to say anything about whose side we are on because of its evidence in our lives.