

Sermon Outline: POWER FOR THE POWERLESS (1 Thess. 1:2-5a)

Intro: *The church bomb threat on my vicarage year, 1978*

- I. DO YOU EVER FEEL POWERLESS? (The Thessalonian Christians did)
 - A. It wasn't that the Thessalonians were completely powerless
 - B. But we know from the rest of Paul's letter to them that they were experiencing many trials

- II. DO YOU EVER FEEL POWERLESS? (We all do sometimes)
 - A. There are things in life that make us feel powerless...
 - B. Besides these things, there is the Liar himself, Satan, who would devour us with powerlessness (1 Peter 5:8)
 - C. Sometimes we go in search of power but come to a dead end path...

- III. YET, ST. PAUL TELLS US - ***When I am weak, then I am strong!*** (2 Cor. 12:10)
 - A. This seems strange: Weakness as a sign of strength? Powerlessness as a sign of power?
 - B. Its all a matter of --- on whom do you rely on!? (2 Cor. 12:9)
 - C. God loves us so much He became powerless in order to save the powerless (Mtt. 27:46)
 - D. Jesus dying on the Cross... seemingly powerless, is what Paul calls **THE POWER OF GOD** (1 Thess. 1:5a; Rom. 1:16)
 - E. And--- the power of the resurrected Jesus lives in us today
(Gal. 2:20; 1 Thess. 4:13)

Concl: *Derek Redmond & the 1992 Olympic games*