

# 1 THESSALONIANS – LESSON 1

## “Real People      Real Gospel      Real City”

Acts 17:1-10 (Paul’s second missionary journey 49-52ad)

17 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.” <sup>4</sup> And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.

<sup>5</sup> But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. <sup>6</sup> But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. <sup>7</sup> Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.” <sup>8</sup> And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. <sup>9</sup> So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go. <sup>10</sup> Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea.....

Thessalonica – (see map) Roman capital city (200,000) of the area located on crossroads and was a seaport. Had considerable commerce and lots of temples, many bordello’s.

1. What region is Thessalonica located in? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What city did “they” come from? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Paul and Silas had to \_\_\_\_\_ Thessalonica..

Paul’s Timeline – Philippi – Thessalonica – Berea – Athens – Corinth. While in Corinth (about 18 months) Timothy and Silas\* showed up with a report from Thessalonica. 1 Thessalonians is a response to the report.

## CHAPTER 1

### Greeting

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This probably Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_ letter. Written from Corinth or Athens.

Vs 1 – What’s missing from this verse? Why?

The Church (greek - \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_) now in “God the Father & the Lord Jesus Christ”

Grace / Peace discussion (Paul knew that they were having a tough time)

## Their Good Example

<sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, <sup>3a</sup> remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope <sup>3b</sup> in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

Vs 2-3 - Paul had received a good report from Timothy so he is giving \_\_\_\_\_ for them as well as \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

In v. 3a - underline the 3 nouns, circle the 3 prepositional phrases

\_\_\_\_\_ of love!

Patience of Hope? \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ until ??...

<sup>4</sup> knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. <sup>5</sup> For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

Vs 4 Election – who? Why?

Paul says the gospel comes in 4 ways: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

They became \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>7</sup> so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. <sup>8</sup> For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

Vs 7-8 Examples to who? .... Who are we examples for? Are we \_\_\_\_\_?

“sounded forth” - \_\_\_\_\_

“Genuine conversion produces visible results” cce p. 17

“The mere *preaching* of the Gospel has done much to convince and convert sinners; but the *lives* of the sincere followers of Christ, as *illustrative* of the truth of these doctrines, have done much more.” (Clarke)

“Everybody asked, ‘Why, what has happened to these Thessalonians? These people have broken their idols: they worship the one God; they trust in Jesus. They are no longer drunken, dishonest, impure, contentious.’ Everybody talked of what had taken place among these converted people. Oh, for conversions, plentiful, clear, singular, and manifest; that so the word of God may sound out! Our converts are our best advertisements and arguments.” (Spurgeon)

<sup>9</sup> For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

V 9 Turn to God \_\_\_\_\_, From Idols \_\_\_\_\_, Serve \_\_\_\_\_

Their Idols? Our Idols?

<sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

to wait Until??....

MATCH THE LETTERS TO THESE CITIES:

\_\_\_\_\_ ATHENS

\_\_\_\_\_ BERE A

\_\_\_\_\_ COLOSSAE

\_\_\_\_\_ CORINTH

\_\_\_\_\_ EPHESUS

\_\_\_\_\_ PHILIPPI

\_\_\_\_\_ THESSALONICA

\_\_\_\_\_ TROAS

