

1 Thessalonians 1.....	1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-9.....	6
1 Thessalonians 2:10-20.....	11
1 Thessalonians 3.....	15
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8.....	20
1 Thessalonians 4:9-18.....	26
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.....	36
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28.....	41
2 Thessalonians 1.....	45
2 Thessalonians 2:1-8.....	49
2 Thessalonians 2:9-17.....	54
2 Thessalonians 3.....	59

1 Thessalonians 1

Outline

- I. Greeting (1)
- II. Paul's positive comments about the Thessalonians (2-10)

- I. Greeting (1)

Discussion Questions

- Who was this letter written to?
- Where is Thessalonica?
- What do we know about Thessalonica? What is the background and history there?
- What do we know of Paul's time ministering there? Who went with him?
- What is the main content and/or main themes of this epistle?
- What was the condition of the Thessalonian church?
- How would you describe the tenor of Paul's letter to them?

Cross-References

Acts 17:1-10 – This passage tells us the background of Paul working in Thessalonica.

Intro

- I. Paul's service among the Thessalonians (1-4)
- II. Paul's motivation and conduct in ministering to the them (5-9)

I. Paul's service among the Thessalonians (1-4)

Discussion Questions

- What was the result of Paul's ministry among the Thessalonians?
- What incident helped give Paul and Silas boldness? What happened in Philippi? So what is one known reason for why God allowed this seemingly bad thing to happen to them?
- What is the motivation for Paul's sharing with them?
- What does it mean to be "entrusted with the gospel?"
- Are we entrusted with the gospel?
- What can we learn from these verses about proper motivations?

Cross-References

Acts 16:19-24,37 – This passage tells the background of Paul and Silas serving in Philippi.

Teaching Points

1. Our coming to you was not in vain – In fact, preaching the gospel to others is never in vain. See Isaiah 55:11. It always accomplishes exactly what God purposes. That doesn't mean it always bears as much fruit as it did in this case in Thessalonica. Paul and his comrades in teaching could have felt discouraged when they left that city. After all, they were only able to stay about three weeks. Then they were forced to leave by an angry mob who not only rejected what they had preached but were furious enough to start a riot which threatened their very lives. Sometimes we may not immediately see the fruit of our efforts, but keep sowing and believing.

Example: I recently knew of a lady who had become a believer after I shared the good news with her. In the meantime ten years passed and I never know how she had responded. It turns out she believed and had been regularly going to church and sharing her faith.

2. Had suffered in Philippi – See Acts 16:19-24. How was Paul treated there? What hardships did they face in that city? How could these very hardships embolden them? This verse teaches us an important lesson.

A. It shows us that God had a plan for allowing Paul and Silas to face hardship in Philippi. While there were probably many facets of this plan, many of which we don't even know, one seemed to be to embolden them. Seeing God work miraculously in the midst of their hardships to save the jailer and his family, to send an earthquake which unchained them, and finally free them from the leaders there, strengthened Paul and Silas to have more faith in God and continue preaching the word no matter what obstacles they faced.

Remember that God has a plan for you even when you face hardships. Ask yourself if you have learned the lesson or lessons He has for you in the midst of it. If you never face dangerous situations it is very difficult to grow more courageous. If you never face annoying situations, it is difficult to grow more patient. If you never get sick, it is difficult to appreciate health. Difficulties happen to refine our Christian character.

The ancient city of Thessalonica is the same city, which is now called Thessaloniki. This is currently the second largest and second most important city in Greece. It was founded roughly 300-400 years B.C. By the time of Paul's missionary journey it was an important regional capital for the Roman province of Macedonia. The city was strategic because of its location at the intersection of two major Roman highways and its harbor, which was a busy port for shipping and trading.

Paul visited this city on his second missionary journey, on which he was accompanied by Silas and Timothy. In the Acts account we see that Paul may have been in this city as short as three weeks since he is mentioned as teaching on the Sabbath three times. Some of the Jews in the local synagogue, but even more Greeks and a number of the leading women, believed Paul's message and were converted.

The Jews were jealous and stirred up a mob, which rioted. Paul's host, Jason, was forcibly taken from his house along with some of the other brethren. Jason somehow made peace with them and Paul and his companions were forced to leave the city, at which time he went to Berea. This was not enough for the Thessalonian Jews, who then followed Paul to Berea and kept causing trouble until he was forced to leave that place as well.

Evidence suggests Paul wrote this letter from Corinth and that based on an inscription showing that Gallio's was consul at 51-52 A.D. this would date 1 Thessalonians as the earliest epistle.

You can read more about this entire account in Acts 17:1-9.

Teaching Points

1. Paul mentioned Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy by name in his greeting because the Thessalonians would have been familiar with them. Both of these brothers accompanied Paul during his time of ministry in Thessalonica. Therefore they certainly had friends there and wanted to pass their greetings on.
2. Timothy was sent back to the church there after Paul left, but before this book was written. See 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2.
3. Paul begins this letter, as normal, with a declaration of authorship, a clear recipient, an acknowledgment of his position as God's servant, and a blessing.

II. Paul's commendations to the Thessalonians (2-10)

Discussion Questions

- What is the main theme from verses 2-10?
- What can we learn from Paul in these verses?
- How was the Thessalonian church doing after Paul's departure?
- What was Paul's attitude toward the Thessalonians?
- What can we learn from Paul about doing ministry?
- What can we learn from Paul about how to treat brothers and sisters in Christ?
- What does "work of faith" mean? How about "labor of love?" And "steadfastness of hope?"
- What doctrines are revealed in verses 4-5?