



1 Thessalonians - Study Guide for the Teaching Series

Week 1 – Sunday 5th July 2020: Introduction to 1 Thessalonians

Introduction from the NIV Study Bible

Paul, Silas, and Timothy came to Thessalonica on Paul's second missionary journey. Paul's stay at Thessalonica was brief, at most only a few months. From there he went to Berea, on to Athens, and then to Corinth. From Athens Paul sent Timothy to encourage the Thessalonians, and when Timothy returned to him at Corinth, the apostle was overjoyed at the news of the strong faith of the Thessalonians. From Corinth he wrote the first Thessalonian letter in late AD 50 or early 51. First Thessalonians is one of the earliest of Paul's letters, and thus also one of the first books in the New Testament to be written. Paul had not had time in Thessalonica to instruct his converts as thoroughly as he would have liked. Thus, in this letter he wanted to express his joy at their steadfastness, encourage them in the midst of suffering, instruct them in deepening their faith, and correct misconceptions about the Lord's return.

Please read Acts 16.6-10

1. What does this passage tell us about how the church came to exist?
2. How does this inspire/ challenge you in being responsive to the Spirit's leading in your life?

Please read Acts 17.1-10a

3. What kind of people became believers and formed the church in Thessalonica?
4. Why might this mix of people coming together to form a new church be problematic?
5. Why is Paul's message about Jesus understood as a threat to Caesar's authority?
What does this say about how the early church taught and lived out the truth that Jesus is Lord (above everyone and everything else)?
6. How does this inspire/ challenge our understanding and application of this truth?

Please read 1 Thessalonians 1.1-3

7. What do you think Paul means when he writes, "Grace and peace to you."?
8. Spend time thanking God for each other, remembering each other's work produced by faith, their labour prompted by love, and their endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.