

# I THESSALONIANS

## LESSON 1

*Note: Thessalonica in Paul's time was a thriving commercial town on an important trade route. Located 50 miles west of Philippi, it was in the heart of the Roman Empire and was the chief city of Macedonia. The city is still in existence today and is known as Salonika. First Thessalonians is significant in that it was the first inspired letter written by Paul, around AD52, and Second Thessalonians was written a few months later.*

### READ ACTS 17:1-5

- 1.A. How long did Paul teach from the Old Testament in the synagogue at Thessalonica? (vs. 2)
  
- 1.B. What did he prove from the scriptures (vs. 3-5) and what was the result?
  
- 1.C. What kind of reaction do you think Christians can expect when they actively seek to share the gospel with others?

### Read I Thessalonians, Chapter 1

- 2.A. What two blessings did Paul wish to bestow upon the Thessalonian believers? (vs. 1)
  
- 2.B. What do you think "grace" means? Can we do anything to earn this grace from God? (Ephesians 1:6-8)
  
- 2.C. What kind of peace is Paul referring to in vs.1? (John 14:27, Philippians 4:7)
  
- 2.D. What must we do to experience God's peace? (Philippians 4: 6, 8 & 9; and Isaiah 26: 3, Psalm 119: 165)
  
- 2.E. Can you remember a time when you experienced God's peace during a trial? If so, please share.

- 3.A. The young Thessalonian believers were a model church. What three qualities did they practice that set them apart from many others? (vs. 3)
- 3.B. What do the following scriptures tell you about faith? (Romans 5: 1, 10: 17, Ephesians 2: 8, and Hebrews 11: 1 & 6)
- 3.C. Are “works of faith” necessary for salvation? ( Eph. 2: 8 & 9, Titus 3:5)
- 3.D. What then is the purpose of our “works of Faith”? (Eph. 2: 10, 4: 12, Colossians 1: 10)
- 4.A. According to I Thess. 1: 3, is love an emotion or an action? (See also I John 3: 18)
- 4.B. What does I Cor. 13: 13 tell us about love? What happens to our “works of faith” if we don’t also have love? (Cor. 13: 1-3)
- 4.C. Is it possible to love God and show love to other Christians? (I John 4: 20 & 21)
- 5.A. Using a dictionary, define hope.
- 5.B. “Hope” must have an object. What was the object of the Thessalonians’ hope? (I Thess. 1: 3) What do you think are some of the things in which the world places its hope?
- 5.C. What exactly are Christians to be hoping for? (Col. 1: 5 & 27, I Peter 1: 3 & 4, and Titus 2: 11-13)
- 5.D. How did the Thessalonians demonstrate their “steadfastness of Hope in Christ”? (vs. 10A)

- 6.A. When Paul preached the gospel to the Thessalonians, he was conscious of what power? (vs. 5)  
What did this power enable these believers to do? (vs. 6)
- 6.B. What was the result of their “Christ-likeness” under persecution? (vs. 7 & 8)
- 6.C. Can you share an example in your own life when you endured persecution with joy?  
What was the effect on those around you?
- 7.A. What especially impressed Paul about the Thessalonian believers in vs. 9?
- 7.B. What “idols” do you think hinder believers from serving God today?
- 8.A. What special promise of hope do believers have as they wait patiently for the Lord’s return?  
(vs. 10)
- 8.B. In your own words, describe the day of God’s wrath. (Zeph. 1: 14-18) (\*Note:  
Inhabitants of the Earth in scripture always refers to the wicked.)
- 8.C. Who is god’s wrath for? (Rom. 1: 12, 2: 5)
- 8.D. What promises of God should give believers comfort? (Rom. 5: 9, I Thess. 5: 9)
- 9.A. Because of the qualities of faith, hope and love that the Thessalonian Christians demonstrated,  
what did Paul know for sure about them? (vs. 4) When others observe your life, do they know  
this for sure about you?