

A Good Foundation

Study 1. 1 Thessalonians 1

Introduction: Read Acts 17:1-10. This describes the ministry of Paul and Silas in the Greek city of Thessalonica on Paul's Second Missionary Journey.

1. How many Sabbaths did Paul speak in the Jewish synagogue?

2. How would you describe the favorable response? _____

3. How would you describe the negative response? _____

A. Paul's ¹ Greeting. 1:1

1. Who are the writers? _____ ²

2. Who are the recipients? _____

3. Who are cited as the foundation of the church? _____

4. What two blessings does Paul bestow upon them? _____

B. Paul's Prayer of Thanks. 1:2-3

1. What were Paul & his associates constantly doing toward God in relation to the Thessalonians? 1:2 _____

2. Through what means did they convey this attitude? Through their _____

3. The writers constantly remember three things about the Thessalonians (1:3):

- a. Their _____ which sprang from their _____

¹ 1:1 heading, Paul's Greeting: The reader must understand that Paul quite consistently speaks not only of himself, but also of Silvanus and Timothy. We know this because he uses plural pronouns (we, us). For simplicity's sake, I economize, frequently, by referring only to Paul.

² 1:1 - Though Paul lists his companions, we understand that Paul was the one who actually wrote the letter.

- b. Their _____ prompted by their _____
 - c. Their _____ inspired by their _____.
 - 1) In whom was their steadfast hope centered? _____
 - 2) In whose presence did their hope in Jesus give them a standing? _____
4. What about you? (1 Thess. 1:3)
- a. Are you working for God because of your faith in Jesus?
 - b. Are you laboring for God prompted by your love for Him?
 - c. Do you persevering in your hope in our Master, Jesus, the Messiah?
- C. Paul's Assurance of God's Having Chosen The Thessalonians. 1:4-10**
1. His statement of their (the Apostolic team's) knowledge 1:4
 - a. On a horizontal plane, Paul called these Thessalonians their "_____. On a vertical plane, he called them God's "_____."
 - b. What did Paul and his associates know about the Thessalonians? 1:4 _____³
 - c. What about you? Has God chosen you? (1 Thess. 1:4). How would the rest of us know if He has?
 2. Paul stated that he and his fellow missionaries were certain that God had chosen these Thessalonians. He then proceeds to give the evidences behind their certain knowledge. 1:5-10
 - a. The power behind the team's gospel presentation 1:5a

³ 1:4 - *His choice of you:* The Apostolic team knew God had chosen the Thessalonian believers. God's choice of Christians is inseparably linked with his having loved them. "Beloved ones" (*agapaō*, 25) is a perfect participle, meaning that God loved these believers at some time in the indefinite past, and His love carries forward to the present time. The word "choice" translates *eklogē* (1589), which occurs 7 times in the NT in the following passages: Acts 9:15; Rom. 9:11; Rom. 11:5, 7, 28; 1 Thess. 1:4; 2 Pet. 1:10. Here is a lexicon link to *eklogē* (1589): <http://www.studylight.org/lex/grk/view.cgi?number=1589>

- 1) Negatively, their gospel ⁴ did not come to the Thessalonians merely in _____.
 - 2) Positively, their gospel did come
 - a) in _____
 - b) and in _____
 - c) and with _____
- b. The character of the presenters of the gospel: What did the Thessalonians know about Paul and his team? 1:5b
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- c. What were the role models whom the Thessalonians imitated? 1:6a
- 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) What about you? Have you followed any good role models in the Christian faith?
- d. The response of the Thessalonians to Paul's good news about Jesus 1:6b:
- 1) What did they receive? _____
 - 2) What did they endure? _____
 - 3) What attitude did they exhibit? _____
- e. The example of the Thessalonians 1:7. To what other believers had the Thessalonians become an example? _____
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⁴ 1:5 - our gospel: The term means "good news." The specific good news of which Paul wrote was the good news about Jesus, who is God's anointed Messiah, or King, destined to rule the world (that's what "Christ" means). Paul wrote succinctly about the Gospel (the Good News about King Jesus) in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. (1) The Good News, if embraced, is able to save us (from the wrath and judgment of God) (15:1-2). (2) The Good News is, first, that King Jesus died for our sins, just as the Scriptures predicted (15:3). His death is proven by His burial (15:4). (3) King Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures predicted (15:4). His resurrection is proven by His many different appearances (15:5-8). (4) As already stated, this Good News about King Jesus must be received and embraced by faith (15:1-2). That alone can save us if we continue to embrace it.

1) What about you? Are you an example to anyone else?

f. The evangelism⁵ of the Thessalonians 1:8.

1) What had “sounded forth” from the Thessalonians like a trumpet blast or rolling thunder? _____

a) Where had it gone forth? Not only in _____ and _____,

b) but also in _____

c) What about you? Has the “word of the Lord” (the message about Jesus) sounded forth from you?

d) If not, what plans do you have to change?

2) What else did Paul say had gone forth from them? _____

3) How thoroughly were these new believers in Thessalonica sharing their faith? Paul and his team had no need to do what? _____

a) What about you? Are you sharing your faith in God with anyone?

b) If not, what plans will you make to change that?

g. The report of other Christians in Macedonia, Achaia, and elsewhere about the Thessalonians 1:9-10.

1) About what did these other Christians report? 1:9 _____

2) and that the Thessalonians had turned to _____

3) and had turned away from _____

⁵ Question f., 1:8 - evangelism: This term simply means “telling the Good News about King Jesus to other people.”

- 4) in order to serve _____
- 5) and to wait for _____ 1:10
- 6) What had God done for Jesus? _____

- 7) What about you?
- Have you turned to God?
 - Have you turned away from idols
 - Are you serving the living and true God?
 - Are you waiting for His Son from heaven?
- 8) What will Jesus do for the Thessalonians (and for us)? _____
_____ 1:10
- On whom does the wrath of God remain? (John 3:36)

 - How can man escape the wrath of God? (Rom. 5:9)

 - What things arouse the wrath of God? (Eph. 5:3-6)

 - What will be the next major, world-wide exhibition of God's wrath?⁶ (Rev. 6:12-17 - note vv. 16, 17).

⁶ 1 Thess. 1:10 - Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come: It is my belief that Jesus delivers the Church-Age believer not only from the eternal wrath of God (John 3:36; Rom. 5:9), but also from that coming exhibition of the wrath of God which Jesus designated as "great tribulation" (Matt. 24:21) and as "the tribulation of those days" (Matt. 24:29), and which the Elder described to John as "the tribulation - the great one" (Rev. 7:14). This deliverance, I believe, Jesus referenced further in His message to the church in Philadelphia, "Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth" (Rev. 3:10).

3. Waiting for Jesus: The Apostle John informed us (1 John 2:28) what we need to do in order not to be ashamed of Jesus when He comes back. What is it? _____

4. What will happen when we see Jesus (1 John 3:2)? _____

5. If we have this hope, then what do we need to be doing? _____

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1 Thessalonians 1

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