

FIRST THESSALONIANS

God's Message to a Church and culture like Ours Today

CHURCH AT THESSALONICA

- Thessalonica was a bustling sea port city; important commercial and trade center; capital of its province; largest city in Macedonia with population over 200,000
- The culture of the city and region was similar to what we find in the USA today – hostile to Christian values; morally permissive and sexually charged
- The church had good diversity - mostly Gentile but with some Jews; men and women
- Church was initially started by Paul and Silas, later Timothy played an important role (Acts 17:1-9; I Thess chapter 3)
- Based on what Paul wrote in his two letters to the church, we can gather that this was overall a healthy church that was doing well in building up each other. Paul encourages them to keep it up and do even better! He also provides additional teaching to clear up misunderstandings and better ground them in truth.

Included in the letter are practical ways that Christians can live holy lives in a culture opposed to Christian values. We will find guidelines on relationships and appropriate boundaries. Paul also conveys an eternal perspective and addresses the second coming of Jesus.

CHAPTER ONE NOTES:

- Verse 1: We need ministry p_____
 Our church is ultimately G_____ church
- Verse 2: We should be t_____
 We should p_____ for each other
- Verse 3: True faith results in w_____
 Love prompts l_____ (work)
 Hope in Jesus inspires e_____
- Verse 4: We are l_____ and c_____ by God
- Verse 5: Gospel should be presented with p_____, with the H_____ and with great c_____
- Verse 6: Leaders should be godly r_____ m_____ and worthy of being imitated as they follow Christ. Our ultimate role model is J_____

 J_____ comes from the Holy Spirit
- Verse 7: We should be a church that sets a g_____ e_____ to the surrounding community.
- Verse 8: We should be a people and church of f_____.
- Verse 9: We should turn from worldly priorities and pursuits and s_____ God only
- Verse 10: We should anticipate the r_____ of Jesus
 God the Father raised Jesus from the dead; because of that Jesus saves us from God's justified w_____