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<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

Personal Bible Study 06 – 1 Thessalonians 1-2

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 1-2 again. It takes about 4 minutes.
2. Some background to help fill in some of the details.
 - a. Here is a map of modern day Thessaloniki, Greece, which allows you to zoom in and out
https://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&q=thessaloniki+greece&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=Thessaloniki,+Greece&gl=uk&t=m&z=12&vpsrc=0&iwloc=A&f=d&daddr=Thessaloniki,+Greece&geocode=%3BCRVm-9vNimP3FYTSawId0GxeASkP1qcZ_TioFDHObrP1ECLaPQ
 - b. As you can see it is a seaport. In Paul's day it was one of the most important cities in the Roman province of Macedonia. Locate Thessalonica on the following ancient map <http://www.bible-history.com/maps/romanempire/Thessalonica.html>
 - c. Thessalonica was a thriving seaport filled with attractive commerce. The majority of the inhabitants of the ancient city were native Greeks. However, there was a large Jewish community there.
3. The church in Thessalonica owed its origin to the work of Paul and his helpers on his second missionary journey. On God's call to Macedonia, read Acts 16:9-10. Paul responded to God's call and begun to work in Philippi and then moved to Thessalonica, about 100 miles away. Locate Philippi on the previous map.
4. In Thessalonica Paul preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For three successive Sabbaths he preached the Gospel to the Jews, basing his appeal on the Old Testament Scriptures. He proved that the promised Messiah of the Old Testament whom was "to suffer, and to rise again from the dead" was in fact Jesus Christ. Note the positive results in Acts 17:4.
5. Among the converts were heathens, they are the ones that Paul is referring to in 1 Thess. 1:9-10, those who turned from idols. When the synagogue was closed to him, he went to the gentiles and many believed and formed the local church at Thessalonica.
6. However, as with anyone who teaches truth, Paul also received great opposition. Read Acts 17:5-7. I will go into more details of this opposition in the next lesson. It is what Paul has in mind as he defends himself in 1 Thess. 2.

In our next Bible class at FBC, I will also discuss the process of how God hardens the heart of both unbelievers and believers who really are not interested in Truth for the right reasons and in doing so He gives them their “freedom.” This is the other side of sanctification. Think about it: Every single day we are either being sanctified or hardened in our hearts/wills. It is all up to our 2nd order wills, what we really want: God or something else.

Blessed in ‘Ehyeh,

Pastor Don