

Personal Study through the Bible-10 (1 Thessalonians 1-3)

Background to 1 Thessalonians = Acts 17:1-10

1. Paul reasoned with the Jews in the synagogues for ___ weeks, 17:2. It was during this period that he also spent time during other days of these weeks preaching to the Gentiles. Those who believed during this period are the ones Paul mentions in 1 Thess. 1:9-10 who ‘turned from idols to *serve* the living God.’ This language speaks of Gentiles more than Jews.
2. Paul was the consummate apologist—as well as pastor, evangelist, and philosopher. We see this in Acts 17:3 where we are told that he was explaining and giving ___ “that Christ had to suffer and rise against from the dead.”

1 Thessalonians 1

1. It was the ___ that was preached to these Thessalonians that came with power through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (1:5). While there is absolute conviction of the existence of God through natural/general revelation for anyone with the proper cognitive faculties, no one can have conviction of the truths of special revelation apart from the Holy Spirit. This is why we must be very active in living in fellowship with God. It effects our confidence in the God and truths of the Bible.
2. We can see the true nature of repentance as a result of salvation by how these Thessalonians turned from idols to ___ a living and true God, vs. 10.

1 Thessalonians 2

1. The account of Paul’s beating and imprisonment that he mentions in verse 2 is found in Acts 16:12-40. Read that section. Who was with Paul in the inner prison and is also mentioned in 1 Thess 1:1? (the different spellings refer to the same person). Note how they both gave the same gospel to the jailer in Acts 16:31, “*they* said, Believe in the Lord Jesus . . .” Note their attitudes to suffering in verse 16:25, which demonstrates nothing less than God’s power.
2. Note Paul’s, Timothy’s and Silas’ attitude to the Thessalonians: they did not lord over these new believers. He reminds them how “we proved to be ___ among you” (vs. 7). The language he uses is very graphic. He is in effect saying they were the wet nurses for the Thessalonians. Of course, he is speaking metaphorically and referring to teaching them more basics of the gospel message, which they had accepted as the very ____ of God (13)).

3. Note Paul's sensitivity to the false charges of hypocrisy or preaching for ulterior motives in verses 2-6, 10. Character, virtue, is very important for anyone preaching or teaching. Never trust a pastor without virtue. Note the virtues in verse 10.
4. Note Paul's recognition of the spiritual warfare, the angelic conflict, in verse 18. While God is in absolute control, He does allow Satan to "play his hand in human history," which only further illustrates and proves the goodness of God's plan.

Read 1 Thessalonians 3 – I just timed it and it takes about 1 minute and 34 seconds.

1. As you read it, I want you to think about Paul's attitude in this chapter in light of his attitude in the previous two chapters. You should understand more of his profile in loving fellow believers who are growing in the Lord. Love for fellow believers and love for all ____ is a result and goal of true spiritual growth (3:12). Consider the elements of Paul's love for believers, both intellectual as well as affective, in the first 3 chapters of 1 Thessalonians.
2. Timothy brought good news to Paul and Silas about the Thessalonians' faith and ____ (6).

All because of Christ,

Pastor Don Hargrove