

Responsible & Ready Citizens With The Gospel
Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide
1 Thessalonians 1 (Introduction)
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- This book was written by the Apostle Paul around _____ AD from _____.
- Thessalonica was not its original name. It was Thermai, which means “_____.”
- New Testament scholar William Barclay writes this about the strategic importance of Thessalonica: It is impossible to over stress the importance of the arrival of Christianity in Thessalonica. If Christianity was established there, it was bound to spread east along the Egnatian Road until all Asia was conquered, and west until it stormed even the city of Rome. The coming of Christianity to Thessalonica was crucial in its development into a world religion” (Source: William Barclay, The Daily Bible Study Series, “1 Thessalonians,” p. 2090.

What Was The Bad News Timothy Brought Back To Paul About This Church?

1. Preaching of the _____ had produced an unhealthy impact on these new Christians. How? They had quit their jobs and had abandoned all their ordinary activities, believing Jesus was coming any day now (1 Thess. 2:14; 3:4-6; 4:9-11).
2. There was a small group that was slandering Paul as being some kind of _____. They said he was only preaching the Gospel for what he could get out of it (1 Thess. 2:6-7; 2:11). What was the bad news?
3. There was the concern that some of them would relapse into their former _____ lifestyles (1 Thess. 4:3-8).
4. They were worried about what happened to those believers who had _____ before the Second Coming. Paul answers those questions (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
5. There were some who were despising and being antagonistic to those in lawful _____ (1 Thess. 5:12-14).

6. Because of the first 5, there was now some _____ in this church. (1 Thess. 4:9; 5:13).
- + 1 Corinthians 10:10, "Don't bother about his letters," some say. "He sounds big, but it's all noise. When he gets here you will see that there is nothing great about him, and you have never heard a worse preacher!" (TLB)."
 - Paul reminds us that we are only strong when we are _____; we are only great when we are _____; we are only significant when we are _____ in our walk with the Lord and with others.
 - + 1 Corinthians 15:8-9, And last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God" (NASB).
 - + 1 Thessalonians 1:1a, "We are writing to the church in Thessalonica . . ." (NLT).
 - This is truth _____ the church; not truth _____ the church.

Since Our Ultimate Citizenship Is In Heaven, What Does This Mean?

1. There is nothing you can ever do to _____ your salvation.
 - + Matthew 10:27-30, "My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, ²⁹for My Father has given them to Me, and He is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are One" (NLT).
2. We are to live by _____ and _____ (1 Thess. 1:1).
3. We are to give _____ for our church family (1 Thess. 1:2=3).
 - "Steadfastness" in 1 Thess. 1:3 is the Greek New Testament word [ὑπομονή; hupomonē]. Actually it is two Greek words that mean "to _____" This word was used of a beast that carried a heavy load.
 - + Romans 12:10, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (NIV).
 - + Philippians 1:3, "I thank my God every time I remember you" (NIV).
 - "Imitators" in 1 Thess. 1:6 is the Greek New Testament word [μιμητής; mimētēs]. It is where we get our English word _____.
 - "Sounded" in 1 Thess. 1:8 is the Greek New Testament word is [ἐξηχέω; exēcheō]. The word itself means "to echo, to _____ across a _____."

What Stands Out About the Thessalonians

1. _____ > they were intent to take the Gospel to the lost as they lived among them.
2. _____ > they were aware that Jesus Christ could return any time, even in their own time.
 - The Thessalonians were committed in their _____ to share the Gospel and in their _____ to carry the Gospel to others.

***** Next Steps Devotional Questions *****

1. If the Lord was to return today, are you being responsible and ready to share the Gospel with your lips and lives? Why or why not?
2. Think about someone you know who is not saved. So if that person died now, it would be without Christ. What would the impact be on you? What does that tell you to do next?
3. Do you give thanks to God for your church? Do you thank people in your church either in person or by a note?