



**WARNING**

**JUDGMENT  
DAY**

**MAY 21ST, 2011**

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*Paul's Letter to the  
Church at Thessalonica*

# I Thessalonians





Acts 15:36-41



I Thessalonians



Acts 16:1-10



I Thessalonians





Acts 16:11-40

I Thessalonians





Acts 17:1-9

I Thessalonians



# The City of Thessalonica

- Founded in 315 BC by Cassander
  - Named for his wife (half-sister of Alexander the Great)
- Later made capitol of Macedonia
- Roman “free city”: autonomy, no military occupation, tax exempt





# The City of Thessalonica

- Most prominent Macedonian city
  - Along the *Egnatian Way* – a Roman military road and trade route
  - At the head of the best harbor
  - Very wealthy and prosperous
- Population approx. 200,000 (many Jews)





# The City of Thessalonica



- Both Greek and Roman religions
  - Within sight of Mt. Olympus
  - Much idolatry (see 1 Thess. 1:9)
  - Worship of Caesar (see Acts 17:6-9)
    - Religion was used to galvanize society



# How Long was Paul's Visit?

- At least 3 weeks (Acts 17:2)
- Most likely longer
  - Considering all that he taught them (e.g. – 1 Thess. 3:4; 4:1-3; 2 Thess. 2:1-5)
  - And his personal ministry (2:8-12)
  - Help from Philippi (Phil. 4:15-16)





# What Did He Do?

- To the Jews:
  - Reasoned in the Synagogue (17:2)
- To Gentiles:
  - Most likely set up shop
    - *Insula*: shop / apartment buildings
    - Artisans: Conversation while working





# What Did He Do? (Acts 17)

- He targeted important cities (1)
- According to Paul's custom (2-3)
  - He went to the Jews first (Rom. 1:16; Acts 1:8; 3:26; 9:20; 13:5, 14)





# What Did He Do? (Acts 17)

- He reasoned with them (2, 17)
  - *To speak back and forth; present intelligent discourse; Q & A*
  - Lost art in Postmodernism: “If I believe it, it is valid and ‘true’ so stop talking.”
  - Prov. 29:9





# What Did He Do? (Acts 17)

- He reasoned with them (2, 17)
- From the Scriptures (2)
  - *According to the Scriptures* (1 Cor. 15:3-4)
  - Example: Acts 13:13-41
  - Jesus: Luke 24:25-27; 44-49





# What Did He Do? (Acts 17)

- He reasoned with them (2, 17)
- From the Scriptures
  - Explaining (*to open the sense of a thing*) and giving evidence (*to set or lay before*)
    1. The Christ had to die and rise again
    2. Jesus is the Christ





# What Happened? (Acts 17)



- Many were saved (4)
- The Jews became jealous (5) and stirred up trouble (8)
- Paul and Silas snuck away to Berea (10)
- Jews from Thess. followed (13)
- Paul -> Athens; Silas & Timothy stayed (15)





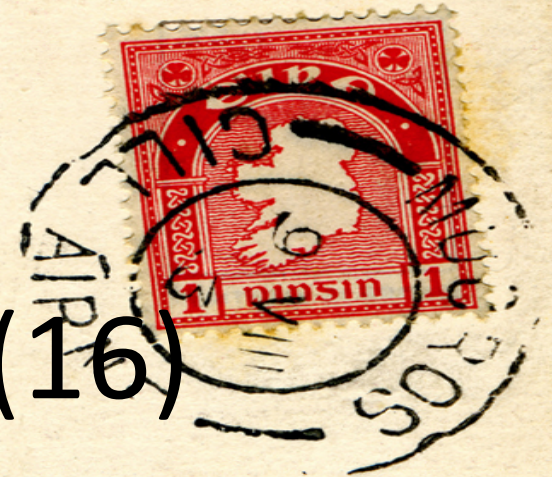
Acts 17:10-34

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# What Happened?

- Paul waited for them in Athens (16)
- Silas & Timothy joined him
- Paul feared for the Thess. believers and sent Timothy back (1 Thess. 3:1-5)
  - Silas to Macedonia, too? (Acts 18:5)
- Paul went to Corinth alone (Acts 18:1)





Acts 18:1-17



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# In Corinth

- Stayed 18 months (Acts 18:11)
- Silas & Timothy from Macedonia (5)
  - Brought news from Thess. (1 Thess. 3:6)
    - Encouragement: standing firm! (3:8)
    - Questions: Parousia? (4:13-5:11)





# The First Letter to Thessalonica

- Purpose for writing:

1. To encourage them to remain faithful in the face of opposition and adversity
2. To answer their questions regarding the second coming of Christ





# Why are we studying this?

- “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren,...” (1 Thess. 4:13)
- We need to renew our minds with the Word of God
- God has revealed Himself and His plan in His Word (Acts 17:2-3)





# The Plan

- Next week: **Cane Creek Park**
- Study 1 Thess. starting June 25th
- Incorporate into *LBTB* Sunday School
- Women's Bible Study Wednesdays @ 9:30





# Homework

- Read 1 Thessalonians
  - (On the website and back table)
  - In one sitting, at least once per week
  - Keep a notebook of questions, observations, key words & themes
  - Share what you are learning!

