

1 THESSALONIANS: BACKGROUND ACTS 17.

1. WHO: 1 Thessalonians 1:1

- Authorship?
- To Who?

2. WHEN:

3. The Acts account of Paul's _____ to Thessalonica. Acts 15-16

- Who is "They?" Acts 15:40; 16:2; 16:6-10
- Next, at Philippi (Acts 16:12) where there was some fruit. (Lydia and her family)
- Paul _____ the divination trade (James 4:7) & took a beating for it. Acts 16:16-40
- Then Paul's team started the 100 mile journey to Thessalonica. Acts 17:1

4. The Acts account of Paul's _____ in Thessalonica. Acts 17:1-9

- Thessalonica was a KEY city (a regional seat of power.)
- Paul's "manner" = Paul's missionary strategy. Vs 3 compare Acts 1:1-3; Luke 24:44. *Discovery Bible Method / Creation to Christ Bible studies!*
- Paul would show from the OT prophecies– their fulfilment in Jesus as the promised Messiah. **1 Corinthians 1:18-23; Romans 1:16**
- This Jesus IS Christ = "anointed one" = "messiah"
- **RESULT? The synagogue would _____. Paul had the _____ of a new _____.** Vs 4
Those who refused Christ formed the _____ of _____ for the new believers. Vs 5-9
Jews – religious rulers. All the persecution that follows Paul is brought by the Jews.
Why? **Their synagogues were turning to Jesus!**
- **VS 6: What a testimony!**
Jesus flips the power structures of this world! **2 Corinthians 8:9**
- The Thessalonian disciples convinced Paul and his group to go into hiding. (vs 6) They were smuggled out into a place of safety. (vs 10) They took the rap for Paul. (vs 8)
- Paul's work in Thessalonica was finished. The missionaries might be driven out, but the church remained, AND they still needed help! Paul wanted to get back but was hindered. **1 Thess 2:17-18**
This was so hard on Paul because the church was greatly persecuted. **1 Thess 2:14.**
- **SO, if Paul could not go back to Thessalonica in person, he could write the church a _____.**

5. The Acts account of Paul's ministry in Berea. Acts 17:10-15

- Vs 10-12: Notice the same missionary strategy.
- The Bereans tested everything by _____. **Prov 14:15; 1 John 4:1; 1 Thess 5:21; Isaiah 1:18**

Vs 14: Here is another **biblical approach** to leadership development and church discipleship. Silas and Timothy are left to establish the church.

KEY: we use the ministry to build MEN. We don't use men to build the ministry.

6. Why we need to study the letters to the Thessalonians.

False teachers had come and tried to subvert the church – they taught that they had missed the rapture, that they were suffering tribulation, etc... The same thing is happening today!

- We need to stay sharp on Bible prophecy.
- Note the order of the books.
- We need to see how to live Christ before His return for us.