

MAY 5, 2021 BIBLE STUDY

1 THESSALONIANS – INTRODUCTION

THE WHO

- After _____ started the church in Thessalonica, he wrote this first letter to the _____ there within just a few months of leaving.
- Both external and internal evidence (1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2:18) support the view that Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians from _____.
- Paul felt the need to receive a report from the newborn church in Thessalonica, so he sent _____ back to serve and minister to the new believers there. Paul wanted to check on the state of the Thessalonians' faith, for fear that false teachers might have infiltrated
- _____ soon returned with a good report, prompting Paul to pen 1 Thessalonians as a letter of _____ to the new believers.
- In _____, _____ recorded that Paul preached for three Sabbath days to the Jews in the local synagogue (Acts 17:2).
- Most scholars believe Paul spent about three _____, rather than three _____, with the Thessalonians because he would have had to have been there long enough to receive more than one offering from the Philippian church (Philippians 4:15-16).
- Paul's ministry in Thessalonica obviously touched not only Jews but _____ as well. Many Gentiles in the church had come out of _____, which was not a particular problem among the Jews of that time (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

THE WHEN

- It is generally dated A.D. _____. Support for this date was found in an inscription discovered at Delphi, Greece
- It was just a few months after he preached in Thessalonica on his _____ missionary journey.
- Upon leaving Thessalonica under duress, Paul, _____, and _____ traveled to Athens by way of Berea.

THE WHERE

- Thessalonica was a bustling _____
- It was an important _____ and _____ center, located at the junction of the great Egnatian Way and the road leading north to the Danube. It was the _____ city in Macedonia and was also the capital of its province.
- The background of the Thessalonian church is found in _____. Since Paul began his ministry there in the Jewish synagogue, it is reasonable to assume that the new church included some Jews. However, 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Ac 17:4 seem to indicate that the church was largely _____ in membership.

THE WHAT

- Paul had left Thessalonica abruptly, after a rather brief stay. Recent converts from _____ (1 Thessalonians 1:9) were left with little external support in the midst of _____.
- Paul's purpose in writing this letter was to _____ the _____ in their trials (1 Thessalonians 3:3-5), to give instruction concerning godly living (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12) and to give _____ concerning the future of believers who die before Christ returns (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

THE WHY

- The subject of _____ (_____ _____) seems to be predominant in both Thessalonian letters.
- Every chapter of 1 Thessalonians ends with a reference to the _____ _____, with 1 Thessalonians 4 giving it major consideration (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 2:19-20; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23-24).
- First Thessalonians provides Christians with the clearest biblical passage on the coming rapture of believers, an event that will inaugurate the _____ - _____.

SOURCES:

1. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-thessalonians/>
2. <https://insight.org/resources/bible/the-pauline-epistles/first-thessalonians>
3. Life application study Bible: NIV. (2019). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.