

# letters

## THE LETTER TO THE THESSALONIANS DECEMBER 15, 2019

### THE APOSTLE PAUL'S VISIT TO THESSALONICA

*As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women. But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. Acts 17:2-5*

### THE THESSALONIANS TURN TO THE REAL GOSPEL

*Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. 2 We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 3 We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*4 For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. 6 You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.*

*7 And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.*

*8 The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia - your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-9*

The Thessalonians \_\_\_\_\_ God's grace and peace, and as a result, their lives were now characterized by faith, hope, and love (1:1-3).

The Thessalonians became joyful \_\_\_\_\_ of Paul and the Lord - even amidst severe suffering (1:4-6).

The Lord's message \_\_\_\_\_ from the Thessalonians over the entire region (1:7-8).

The Thessalonians \_\_\_\_\_ from idols to serve the living and true God (1:9).

*"With whom will you compare me or count me equal? To whom will you liken me that we may be compared? Some pour out gold from their bags and weigh out silver on the scales; they hire a goldsmith to make it into a god, and they bow down and worship it. They lift it to their shoulders and carry it; they set it up in its place, and there it stands. From that spot it cannot move. Even though someone cries out to it, it cannot answer; it cannot save them from their troubles... I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me." Isaiah 46:5-9*

*"What fault did your ancestors find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves... My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water." Jeremiah 2:5-13*

*"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." John 7:37-38*

*Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? 1 Thessalonians 3:6-9*

*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! 1 Corinthians 9:15*

READ FOR NEXT WEEK: 2 THESSALONIANS

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