

## Thessalonica

Acts 17.1-10

### 1. Thessalonica

- a. the most important seaport of Macedonia
- b. at first was a small village known as Alia, then Therma (hot springs)
- c. Cassander (son of Antipater) named city after his wife (Alexander's sister) 315
- d. occupied by the Athenians during the Peloponnesian war (Athens & Sparta) - 431-404
- e. came under Roman control in 168 - 4 districts - Thessalonica capital of 2<sup>nd</sup>
- f. 146 - Macedonia united as single province with Thessalonica as capital
- g. very important seaport -
- h. allied with Augustus (Octavian) & Anthony against Brutus & Cassius - free city
- i. As Roman city was given independence in internal affairs - Politarchs

### 2. Paul

- a. **Acts 17.1** - came to Thessalonica - synagogue of the Jews
- b. **Acts 17.2** - three sabbath days
- c. **Acts 17.3** - this Jesus whom I preach to you is Christ
- d. **Acts 17.4** - some of them believed - Jews, devout Greeks, "chief women"
- e. **1 Cor 16.5** - passed through Macedonia on his way to Corinth
- f. **Acts 17.5** - Jews which believed not ... city in an uproar
- g. **Acts 17.6** - These that have turned the world upside down
- h. **Acts 17.7** - that there is another king, one Jesus
- i. **Acts 17.10** - the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea
- j. **Acts 17.13** - when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge ... went to Berea
- k. Thessalonians:
  1. **Acts 20.4** - of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus
  2. **Acts 19.29** - Aristarchus with Paul at Ephesus during the riot
  3. **Acts 27.2** - Aristarchus - with Paul on the voyage to Italy
  4. **Col 4.10** - Aristarchus my fellowprisoner
  5. **Philemon 22-24** - Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

### 3. The Thessalonians

- a. **1 Thess 1.2-3** - remembering your work of faith
- b. **1 Thess 1.6** - received the word in much affliction
- c. **1 Thess 1.7** - ye are examples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia
- d. **1 Thess 1.8** - for from you sounded out the word of the Lord ... in every place
- e. **1 Thess 1.9** - turned to God from idols
- f. **1 Thess 2.13** - ye received it not as the word of men
- g. **1 Thess 2.14-15** - ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen
- h. **1 Thess 2.6-7** - we were comforted over you ... by your faith
- i. **2 Thess 1.3-4** - your faith groweth exceedingly

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### **4. Summary**

- a. Complete change in thinking (repentance) (**Acts 17.29-31**)
- b. obeyed and remained faithful in spite of opposition & persecution (**Lk 12.8**)
- c. they had an active faith which became known to all (**Jms:1:22**)
- d. they grew in their faith and became an encouragement to others (**Heb:3:13**)

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### 2. Paul

**Acts 17.1** - Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

**Acts 17.2** - And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

**Acts 17.3** - Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

**Acts 17.4** - And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

**1 Cor 16.5** - Now I will come unto you, when I shall pass through Macedonia: for I do pass through Macedonia.

**Acts 17.5** - But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

**Acts 17.6** - And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

**Acts 17.7** - Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

**Acts 17.10** - And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

**Acts 17.13** - But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.

### Thessalonians:

**Acts 20.4** - And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

**Acts 19.29** - And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre.

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**Acts 27.2** - And entering into a ship of Adramyttium, we launched, meaning to sail by the coasts of Asia; one Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, being with us.

**Col 4.10** - Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

**Philmn 22-24** - But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you. 23: There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus; 24: Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers..

### 3. The Thessalonians

**1 Thess 1.2-3** - We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 3: Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

**1 Thess 1.6** - And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

**1 Thess 1.7** -So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

**1Thess 1.8** - For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

**1 Thess 1.9** - For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

**1 Thess 2.13** - For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

**1 Thess 2.14-15** - For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: 15: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

**1 Thess 2.6-7** - Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. 7: But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

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**2 Thess 1.3-4** - We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; 4: So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

### 4. Summary

Complete change in thinking (repentance) (**Acts 17.29-31**) - Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. 30: And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

obeyed and remained faithful in spite of opposition & persecution (**Lk 12.8**) - Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:

they had an active faith which became known to all (**Jms:1:22**) - But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

they grew in their faith and became an encouragement to others (**Heb:3:13**) - But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.