

## The Gospel Comes to Thessalonica

### Series: Blameless Hearts – 1 Thessalonians Series

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Today, we launch into a new series based on 1 Thessalonians. This is believed to be Paul's first letter. The tone and message of this letter very much reflect the times, the people and their response to the Gospel. While very different than Fulton, this letter offers us clues to the Gospel's scope, effect & application.

#### 1. Let's meet the Thessalonians

When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. <sup>2</sup>As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. <sup>6</sup>But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, <sup>7</sup>and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." <sup>8</sup>When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. <sup>9</sup>Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go. <sup>10</sup>As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Acts 17:1-10

#### 2. Thanks to God for the Gospel's \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.

<sup>2</sup>We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>**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. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

#### 3. Imitating Christ & Christ-followers is a \_\_\_\_\_ for Kingdom Expansion.

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. <sup>7</sup>And so you **became a model** to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-10

**Conclusion:** Take-aways for today:

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All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible unless otherwise mentioned. You may make comments or ask Bro. Tony questions about this message by email at: [brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org](mailto:brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org)