

Letters to the Thessalonians

Feb 26, 2020 to April 1, 2020

First Redeemer Church

Wednesday nights

Picture in my classroom...5 Solas



Schedule for Letters to the Thessalonians

Dates	Chapters covered	
Feb 26, 2020	1 Thess Intro - Ch 1 & 2A	
Mar 4, 2020	1 Thess Ch 2B -3	
Mar 11, 2020	1 Thess Chapters 4-5A	
Mar 18, 2020	1 Thess Chapter 5	
Mar 25, 2020	2 Thess Ch 1-2A	
Apr 1, 2020	2 Thess Ch 2B-3	

Context of Letters

- Letters versus books
- Written in Corinth to Thessaloniki in 50-51AD
 - Perhaps oldest NT letter (Galatians perhaps 49AD)
 - One of Paul's earliest writings about His beliefs
 - Common Pauline themes and styles
- Important relevancy to Today
 - Culture in Paul's time
 - Culture Today -> Lessons being learned today
 - Brightness of Thessalonian Church
 - Closeness to **expectation** of Lord's return
 - Questions that arose from this expectation

Footsteps of Paul



Background- see Acts Ch 15-17

- Second Missionary Journey
- Up from Tarsus and Antioch
- Derbe and Lystra
 - Timothy
- Desire to go to Bythinia
 - HS Stops 2x
- Troas, vision of Man from Macedonia
- Paul's path to Thessaloniki

Footsteps of Paul



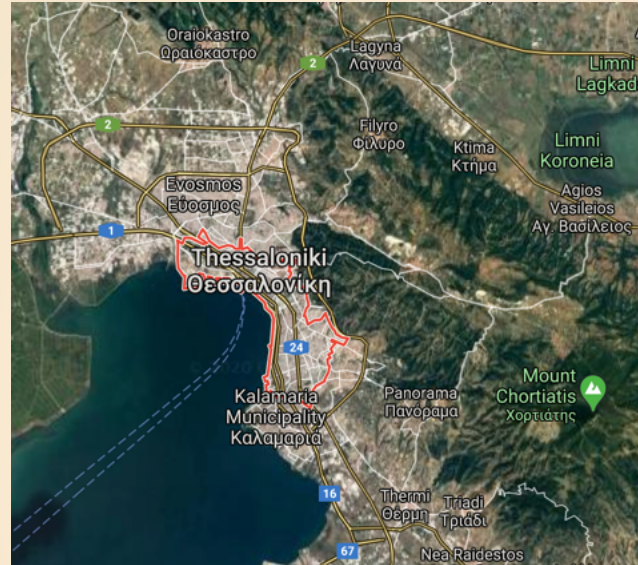
Thessalonika- Yesterday and today... aka Salonika



Arch of Gaius



White Tower



View of City – Old part in Red
Gulf of Thermai



Via Egnatia – Rome to Bithinia
Main Street of Thessalonika

Roman Roads – Key to Expansion of Kingdom



Purpose for Letters to Thessalonians

- Paul Established the church here in 3 Sabbaths
 - Worked the whole time
 - Paul, Silas, and Timothy, and perhaps Luke
 - Leaves Timothy or sends back
- Trouble in River City, escape to Berea
- Goes to Phillippi
- Corinth...hears from Timothy both good news and troubling news → 1 Thessalonians to encourage and answer Q's
- Gets Feedback about issues and Q's several months later → 2 Thessalonians..answer more Q's

Scripture Discussion

- Written in about 51 AD
 - One of the first books of the NT written, with perhaps Galatians written in 49AD
 - No Gospels, Only Apostles and Disciples to preach the word
- Gospel comes to Europe
- Written by Paul in Corinth...dictated to amanuensis for writing

1 Thess 1:1-5 NIV

1 Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the **church** of the Thessalonians **in** God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace to you.

Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith

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.**

Chosen You or Elected You

This is important to understand what is meant by “Chosen” here

It means> Born Again, Having indwelling Holy Spirit. It does not imply any of the theological issues surrounding the theological discussion of Free Will or Calvinistic thought.

Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV)- *The Narrow and Wide Gates*

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

<Discuss my view of the Doorway or Gate>

1 Thess 1: 6

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,**

¹⁰ **and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who *rescues us from the coming wrath.***

A reminder and comparison

- Thessalonian Church was very special
 - Gateway to Europe
 - Active/On Fire Believers
 - Fully IN Christ, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit
 - Loving God, and showing it in Faith driven Actions
 - Loving each other and providing a refuge from the world in a safe and loving space
 - Witness that “rang out” not only locally but all over the area
 - Passionate about Biblical beliefs
- First Redeemer – The Thessalonian Church in Cumming
 - **Each item above compares with Thessalonian Church**
 - Plus Actively looking for the Lord’s return
 - Our Name is known locally and around the world

Next Week

- I will send an email to each who signed up telling you how to receive the slides and audio of this first lesson
- Read 1 Thess, Chapters 2-3 for next week and we will try and get back on schedule
- Send me any questions if you'd like at: jmlay@windstream.net
- God bless you and I will see you next Wednesday