



Disciples Doing What Disciples Do (I Thessalonians 1:1-10)

Introduction to I Thessalonians

It's around AD 51 and Paul arrives in Thessalonica with Silas and Timothy. Paul teaches in the synagogue as usual and uses the scriptures to prove that Y'shua is the long-awaited Messiah. Many new converts come to the faith and that is the good news. But, as has become common in many places Paul visits, it is not without controversy. Yet again, Jews who do not believe become jealous and cause trouble. When Paul and Silas are accused of defying Caesar by saying there is "another king," it causes a great uproar and they barely escape before being injured.

Later on, Paul's concern that the resistance the new believers will face may cause some to backslide, so he sends Timothy to see them again. Timothy is Greek and would likely face a bit less trouble traveling there. Paul is overjoyed by the news that the Thessalonians have stayed steadfast in their faith.

Paul sends them this letter to encourage them and show how thankful he is that they have maintained the faith, despite any trials and challenges. He delivers a few keys to proper Christian living: avoid sexual immorality; love one another sincerely; and work hard to earn a living! He then elaborates on the hope that everyone who dies as Christians enjoys; they will be raised when Y'shua returns! Paul goes on to explain about what His second coming will be like. And here is really the bottom line: live in such a way that you will not be embarrassed to stand before Him when He comes. And keep up the good work you are doing until that very day!

Paul's visit to Thessalonica in Acts 17 (See [A Man on a Mission](#))

☒ Preaching in Thessalonica (**Acts 17:1-4**)

☒ Explaining and Demonstrating Christ using the Scriptures

☒ “Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to **Thessalonica**, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. **Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”** And **some** of them were **persuaded**; and a great multitude of the **devout Greeks**, and

not a few of the **leading women**, joined Paul and Silas.” Acts 17:1-4 NKJV

- ☑ They left Philippi and came to Thessalonica.
 - ☑ As Paul would do every Sabbath, he went to the synagogue (three consecutive Sabbaths).
 - ☑ Each time he visited a synagogue, he used the scriptures to prove that Y’shua was the long-awaited Messiah.
 - ☑ Many attendees believed Paul and Silas: some were Jews; some were Greeks; and some were important women in the city.
- ☑ Assault on Jason’s House (**Acts 17:5-9**)
 - ☑ The Jews who did not believe become jealous.
 - ☑ “But the **Jews who were not persuaded**, becoming envious, took some of the **evil men** from the marketplace, and **gathering a mob**, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, **they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city**, crying out, “**These who have turned the world upside down** have come here too. **Jason has harbored them**, and **these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar**, saying there is **another king—Jesus**.” And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when

they heard these things. So when they had **taken security** from Jason and the rest, they let them go.” Acts 17:5-9 NKJV

☑ Jealousy is Ugly

☑ Where have we seen this before? The Jews from Antioch in Pisidia and Iconium were so jealous that they showed up in Lystra to stir up such strife, and that is what led to Paul’s stoning!

☑ **In Antioch in Pisidia:** *“But when **the Jews** saw the multitudes, they were **filled with envy**; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.”* Acts 13:45 NKJV

☑ **In Lystra:** *“Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and **having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul** and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.”* Acts 14:19 NKJV

☑ Now the jealous Jews in Thessalonica assemble a mob with the obvious intent to cause a riot.

☑ They descended on the house of man named Jason, likely the one who was hosting Paul and Silas and also having church gatherings in his home.

☑ The claim against Paul and Silas and their gracious host Jason is that they are breaking Roman law and declaring another man king other than Caesar.

- ☑ They could not find Paul and Silas at the home, so they dragged Jason in front of the city officials who made him post some type of bail before they released him.

What Comes in Should Go Out!

“Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, **To the church of the Thessalonians** in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **We give thanks** to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, **remembering without ceasing** your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, **knowing**, beloved brethren, **your election by God**. For our **gospel** did **not** come to you **in word only, but** also in **power**, and in **the Holy Spirit** and in much **assurance**, as you know **what kind of men we were among you** for your sake. And you became followers of us and of the Lord, **having received the word in much affliction**, with **joy of the Holy Spirit**, so that you became **examples** to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you **the word of the Lord has sounded forth**, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. **Your faith toward God has gone out**, so that **we do not need to say anything**. For **they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and**

true God, and to **wait for His Son** from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who **delivers us from the wrath to come.**" I Thessalonians 1:1-10 NKJV

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

✓ "Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, **To the church of the Thessalonians** in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." I Thessalonians 1:1 NKJV

✓ Salutation

- ✓ Timothy had joined Paul and Silvanus (Silas) as they passed through Derbe and Lystra (in Acts 16) after they left Jerusalem for his Second Missionary journey.
- ✓ Paul was carrying with him the letters containing the ruling for the Gentiles coming to faith as determined at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15.
- ✓ Paul was directed by the Holy Spirit to bypass the cities of Asia (Acts 16:6-10) and head straight to Macedonia (that's where Thessalonica is located.)



☑ *“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, **remembering without ceasing** your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, **knowing**, beloved brethren, **your election by God.**” 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 NKJV*

☑ **Paul is grateful!**

- ☑ He is thrilled that the seeds he planted are growing into healthy thriving plants.
- ☑ The reports are coming in... the converts are walking faithfully, loving one another, and despite challenges, demonstrating patience because of the hope in Christ that Paul was able to impress upon them.
- ☑ It is obvious. These are true converts chosen by God. If they were not, they would have fallen away soon after Paul left them. Fake believers have no reason to withstand the persecution that comes with their faith!

☑ *“For our **gospel** did **not** come to you **in word only**, but also in **power**, and in **the Holy Spirit** and in much **assurance**, as you know **what kind of men we were among you** for your sake.” 1 Thessalonians 1:5 NKJV*

☑ **The Gospel**

- ☑ Not just words: The good news is not just something we talk about. It is something we live by.
- ☑ Your life may be the only Gospel anyone ever reads!
- ☑ **The Holy Spirit**
 - ☑ Power to convert men!
 - ☑ *“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, that your **faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**” 1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NKJV*
 - ☑ *“For the kingdom of God is not in word but in **power.**” 1 Corinthians 4:20 NKJV*
 - ☑ The power of God via the Holy Spirit, not the words of men, is what draws men to the faith!
- ☑ Assurance because it comes from God:
 - ☑ *“that your **faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**” 1 Corinthians 2:5 NKJV*
 - ☑ When we let the Holy Spirit do the work, then we can be certain the conversion is real.
 - ☑ If we depend on the fancy persuasive words of charismatic teachers, then we are not sure to what people are responding!
- ☑ **Reputation**

- ☑ What did the Thessalonians see in Paul, Silas, and Timothy?
- ☑ People are watching.
- ☑ Would others know you are a Christian by what they see in you, even if you were not able to say a word?
- ☑ If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?
- ☑ A good testimony...
 - ☑ *“Moreover he must have **a good testimony among those who are outside**, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” I Timothy 3:7 NKJV*
 - ☑ Again, unbelievers are watching! What are they witnessing in your words and actions?
- ☑ *“And you became followers of us and of the Lord, **having received the word in much affliction**, with **joy of the Holy Spirit**, so that you **became examples** to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.” I Thessalonians 1:6-7 NKJV*
- ☑ **Affliction**
 - ☑ Here is what makes the Gospel of Salvation so real, so authentic. You are not promised all sunshine and rainbows! Quite to the contrary, you are promised turmoil, trials, and tribulation!

- ☑ Who on earth would endure such if what they were experiencing in the faith was not authentic?
- ☑ “They went out from us, **but they were not of us**; for **if they had been of us, they would have continued with us**; but they went out that they might be made manifest, **that none of them were of us.**” 1 John 2:19 NKJV
- ☑ In this world you will have tribulation...
- ☑ “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 NKJV
- ☑ Tribulations required to enter the kingdom of God.
- ☑ “**And when they had preached the gospel to that city [Derbe] and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”**” Acts 14:21-22 NKJV
- ☑ After Paul was nearly stoned to death in Lystra, he got up and went into the next city (Derbe) and preached the Gospel!
- ☑ Trials are a forgone conclusion...

☑ *“My brethren, **count it all joy when you fall into various trials**, knowing that the **testing of your faith produces patience**. But let patience have its **perfect work**, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” James 1:2-4 NKJV*

☑ This is the correct perspective on trials: be joyful because the challenge is meant to perfect you!

☑ Genuineness of your faith...

☑ *“**In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials**, that the **genuineness of your faith**, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is **tested by fire**, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ” I Peter 1:6-7 NKJV*

☑ Rejoice in the trials because your faith must be tested by fire and the payoff is so much greater than the test!

☑ **Joy**

☑ Righteousness and peace and joy...

☑ *“for **the kingdom of God** is not eating and drinking, but **righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**”*

Romans 14:17 NKJV

- ☑ The kingdom of God is not relegated to your experience in the flesh.
- ☑ It is rather the radical transformation of your mind into the mind of Christ (I Cor. 2:16).
- ☑ For that to happen, you must die to the flesh...
 - ☑ *"I have been **crucified with Christ**; it is **no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me; and **the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me."*
Galatians 2:20 NKJV
- ☑ And that takes practice...
 - ☑ Be of good cheer! (John 16:33)
 - ☑ Count it all joy! (James 1:2)
 - ☑ Greatly rejoice! (I Peter 1:6)
 - ☑ "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22)
- ☑ **Examples**
 - ☑ There may be nothing more powerful to spread the message of Christ than this!
 - ☑ Your life is the living testimony!
 - ☑ Your example IS THE WITNESS to the world around you!

☑ *“For **from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth**, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. **Your faith toward God has gone out**, so that **we do not need to say anything**.” I Thessalonians 1:8 NKJV*

☑ **The word of the Lord has sounded forth!**

☑ Does your life testimony impact the world around you?

☑ **Your faith toward God has gone out!**

☑ Is your faith so real that you do not have to say a word to the those you encounter because they experience that the gospel is real by what they experience in you!

☑ **Disciples doing what disciples do!**

☑ *“And **the things that you have heard from me** among many witnesses, **commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also**.” II Timothy 2:2 NKJV*

☑ A disciple is one who is being disciplined to make disciples who can make disciples!

☑ *“For **they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God**,” I Thessalonians 1:9 NKJV*

☑ **The influence we had on you is apparent!**

☑ We literally see the impact you had on others because of the impact we had on you!

- ☑ You left your life of idolatry and turned toward God and it was so obvious to others that it changed them!
- ☑ **Disciples doing what disciples do!**
- ☑ “And ***the things that you have heard from me*** among many witnesses, ***commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.***” II Timothy 2:2 NKJV
- ☑ A disciple is one who is being discipled to make disciples who can make disciples!

- ☑ “and to ***wait for His Son*** from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who ***delivers us from the wrath to come.***” I Thessalonians 1:10 NKJV
- ☑ **The payoff...**
- ☑ His coming back and all the trials and tribulations and suffering will be WORTH IT!
- ☑ Why? Because when compared to God’s wrath coming on those who don’t believe, the challenges we face are just a blip on the screen!

NEXT TEACHING

My Life is the Gospel (I Thessalonians 2:1-12)