

# **A Study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians (NIV 1984)**

“To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thess. 1:1b and 2 Thess. 1:1b)

## **The Decision to Launch the Second Missionary Journey**

1. Note Acts 15:35. What city in Syria is mentioned? Who is there? What were they doing there?
2. Note Acts 15:36. Paul and Barnabas proposed visiting where? What did they want to do?
3. Note Acts 15:37-39a. Who did Barnabas want to take with them? Why did Paul not want to take him with them? What word describes their disagreement? This led to them doing what?
4. Note Acts 15:39b-40a. What did Barnabas do? What did Paul do?
5. Note Acts 40b-41. Commended by whom? Paul and Silas went where? Doing what?

## **Revisiting Established Churches and Growth of the Missionary Team**

6. Acts 16:1a. After visiting the town of Derbe they then went to what town? They found a what? What was his name?
7. Acts 16:1b. How is his mother described? How is his father described?
8. Acts 16:2. The brothers of what 2 towns? What did they have to say about Timothy?
9. Acts 16:3. Paul wanted to take Timothy along with him, but first he did what? Why?
10. Acts 16:4. Traveling town to town, what did they deliver?
11. Acts 16:5. What two things happened to the churches?

## **New Territory and a Request**

12. Acts 16:6. As Paul and his companions traveled, they were prevented from doing what? By Whom?
13. Acts 16:7. Why were they not able to go into Bithynia?

14. Acts 16:8. So they went where?
15. Acts 16:9a. During the night, Paul had a what? Of whom? What was this man doing?
16. Acts 16:9b. What plea did the man give?
17. Acts 16:10. After seeing the vision, what was Paul's reaction? What did he conclude?

### **Crossing the Aegean Sea and Getting to the Work**

18. Acts 16:11. They sailed straight for what place? The next day on to what town?
19. Acts 16:12. They then traveled to what Roman colony? It was the leading city of what district?
20. Acts 16:13-15. On what day of the week? Who responded to Paul's message?
21. Acts 16:16-18. Who had a spirit leave her?
22. Acts 16:19-24. What was done to Paul and Silas by order of the magistrate? The jailer was commanded to do what? He place them where?
23. Acts 16:25. Paul and Silas did what two things? The other prisoners did what?
24. Acts 16: 26. What shook the foundations of the prison? What flew open? What came loose?
25. Acts 16:27. What was the jailer about to do? Why?
26. Acts 16:28. What did Paul shout?
27. Acts 16:29-31. What question did the jailer ask? What was Paul's response?
28. Acts 16:32. To whom was the word of Lord spoken?
29. Acts 16:33. Who was baptized?
30. Acts 16:34. Why was the jailer filled with joy?
31. Acts 16:35-37. What did the magistrates order? Paul let all know he and Silas were what?
32. Acts 16:38-40. What was the reaction of the magistrates? What was their request? Where did Paul and Silas then go?

## **To the Work at Thessalonica**

33. Acts 17:1. Before arriving at Thessalonica, they passed through what two towns? What did they find at Thessalonica?
34. Acts 17:2-3. Paul went into the synagogue and he did what for three Sabbath days? Explaining and proving that Christ had to do what? Whom did Paul say was the Christ?
35. Acts 17:4. What 3 groups were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas?
36. Acts 17:5a. Who were jealous? Who did this group round up? They formed what? What did they start?
37. Acts 17:5b. They rushed off to what place? In search of whom? For what purpose?
38. Acts 17:6. The mob told the city officials that these men had caused what? Where? Have now come where?
39. Acts 17:7. They said they were defying what? By saying what?
40. Acts 17:8-9. The crowd and the city officials were thrown into what? They made Jason and the others do what?

## **Moving on and Continuing the Work**

41. Acts 17:10. When it was time of day? Paul and Silas were sent to what city? On arriving there, they went where?
42. Acts 17:11. Why were the Bereans of more noble character than the Thessalonians?
43. Acts 17:12. What groups believed?
44. Acts 17:13. Who learned that Paul was preaching the word of God in Berea? They went to Berea and did what?
45. Acts 17:14. The brother immediately did what? Which two stayed in Berea?
46. Acts 17:15. Paul was escorted to what city? These escorts then left Paul there, leaving with what instructions?
47. Acts 17:16. In Athens, what greatly distressed Paul?
48. Acts 17:17. In the synagogue, Paul reasoned with what 2 groups? What other place did Paul reason with people?

49. Acts 17:18. What 2 groups to dispute with him?

50. Acts 17:19-21. All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing what?

51. Acts 17:22-31. Focusing on verse 31, Paul says God has given proof to all men by doing what?

52. Acts 17:32. What statement led some to sneer? Others reacted by saying what?

53. Acts 17:3-34. Who became followers of Paul and believed? Among them was which member of the Areopagus? A woman by what name? And who else?

54. Acts 18:1. Paul left Athens and went to which city?

[Note: Paul thinks it is good to be left in Athens lone, he sends Timothy to Thessalonica (evidently Silas and Timothy had arrived in Athens and Silas) (Silas 'probably' was sent to Philippi), Reference 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3; Acts 18:5)

55. Acts 18:2-4. What did Paul do every Sabbath? Trying to persuade what 2 groups?

56. Acts 18:5. Who arrives from Macedonia? Paul now devotes himself exclusively to doing what?

57. Acts 18:6. What group opposed Paul and became abusive? Paul then says he will from now on do what?

## **Writing to the Thessalonians**

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:6ff. Paul most likely writes 1 Thessalonians because of the news that Timothy had brought Paul concerning the Thessalonians faith and love.

2 Thessalonians was probably written shortly after 1 Thessalonians as it deals with the same topics, though the topics are elaborated on with more intensity.

Acts 18:11 reveals that Paul was in Corinth at least 18 months. This length of time is needed for 1) the writing of the letter, and 2) the time involved in the traveling of Timothy and Silas. Also, the stay at Athens indicates a short amount of time – probably just long enough for Silas and Timothy to arrive from Berea and then to be sent by Paul to Thessalonica (Timothy) and Philippi (Silas).

Acts 20:1-2 tells of Paul's travel to the Macedonian region on his 3rd Missionary Journey, but this journey would have been after the writings of the 2 letters to the Thessalonians.