

## **Waiting for the Son (1 Thessalonians)**

### **Pt 1 - The Centre of the Christian Life**

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#### **Bible Readings**

##### **1 Thessalonians 1 (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.

<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. <sup>6</sup> 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.

##### **Acts 17 (NIV)**

17 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>[a]</sup> <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.

## Talk Outline

### Words, words, words

### Paul & the Thessalonians

#### *Previously in the book of Acts!*

- Paul & Silas, after miraculously escaping jail in **Philippi**, preach for 3 Sabbaths in **Thessalonica**; some Jews and a large number of Gentiles join them; they set up a house church at Jason's house for (probably) some months; a crowd stirred up by the Jewish leaders try to lynch them, but can only find Jason and some others whom they bring to the politarchs (city officials), where they are bound over to keep the peace and released (Acts 17:1-9)
- Paul & Silas go to **Berea**, are joined by Timothy; another riot (instigated by the Thessalonian Jewish leaders) forces Paul to escape to **Athens** (Acts 17:13-15)
- while in **Athens** Paul is rejoined by Silas & Timothy; Timothy is sent back to Thessalonica to see how the church is going (1 Thess 3:1) [probably because he was not known to the Jewish authorities]
- Paul goes on from Athens to **Corinth**, where Silas & Timothy rejoin him (Acts 18:5; 1 Thess 3:6). Paul then writes "1 Thessalonians" from Corinth.

### The centre of the Christian life

#### -Jesus the Son

-see also Acts 14:15; where Paul urged the Greeks at Lystra to “turn from these worthless things (the paraphernalia of idol worship) to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them”

-in Acts 17:31: “For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.”

#### -who rescues us from the coming wrath

- in 1 Thess 5:10 we are told that Jesus “died for us” – his death on our behalf took the punishment that we deserved!

#### -whom he raised from the dead

#### -who will come from heaven

### Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36–18:22)

c. A.D. 49–51

Paul and Silas revisited the places in Asia Minor where Paul had preached on his first journey (cf. [map](#)), while Barnabas took John Mark and sailed to Cyprus. Paul and Silas visited Derbe, Lystra, and Antioch in Pisidia. From there Paul and Silas traveled to Troas, where Paul received a vision of a man from Macedonia calling to them. Crossing into Europe, they passed through several towns along the Egnatian Way and traveled to the cities of Athens and Corinth in southern Greece. Then, sailing to Ephesus and Caesarea, they visited the church in Jerusalem before returning to Antioch of Syria.



**MAP FROM THE ESV STUDY BIBLE**