

JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

"A Church is Born"

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

1. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

a) Paul is commending the church @ Thessalonica, something he couldn't do with all the churches he planted.

- 1) Some of the churches Paul had to rebuke.
- 2) Some weren't growing as they should.
- 3) Some weren't glorifying God as they should.
- 4) Some were weak and struggling with dissent and problems.

b) AND BECAUSE OF God's grace we haven't had that.

1) **WE SURE HAVE A CHURCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR.**

c) 2 Corinthians 10:17-18

2. We have a church that is not by our own design.

- a) **Loving God**
- b) **Loving Each Other**
- c) **Loving the World to Christ**

3. VERY IMPORTANT

a) The church @ Thessalonica was struggling to survive in a dangerous world.

- 1) The city was a commercial center.
- 2) Thessalonica was the largest, most populous city in that region.
- 3) Economically flourishing.
- 4) It was located at the strategic center point of the Thermaic Gulf.
- 5) Running right through it was the Egnatian Highway, which was the trade route. So it was a crossroads.
- 6) It had multi-languages, and people groups populating the region.

b) **HOWEVER:** Crime was rampant in Thessalonica.

- 1) Archaeologists have discovered homes with no windows.
 - a. Crime was rampant.
- 2) Immorality was rampant.
 - a. Obscene pictures were painted over the walls of buildings all over the city.
- 3) They didn't know how to abort babies back then so they abandoned them all over the city, particularly baby girls.
- 4) Murder was common.
- 5) Divorce was frequent.

4. **AND** right in the middle of all this paganism is this little church plant.

- a) Paul, Silas and Timothy came there on his second missionary journey.
- b) They first went to Philippi and then to Thessalonica.

c) **Acts 17:1-14**

5. After they left and about a year later Paul wrote back to them in this first letter known as 1st Thessalonians.

- a) He writes from Corinth.
- b) **2 Corinthians 11:25-28**

6. **We too live in very trying times.**

- a) Terrorist Groups - There are hundreds around the world.
 - 1) Isis, Al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas, Al-Shabaab, Taliban
- b) Drug and alcohol epidemic,
- c) Aids continues to thrive.
- d) Scientists are flirting with the cloning of humans.
- e) Living embryos are used to harvest stem cells for medical research.
- f) In 2018 Abortion was the leading cause of death - 42 million
- g) 22 Trillion in debt as a country.
- h) Socialism is on our doorstep.
- i) Social, moral, economic and spiritual problems grow every year.

THREE OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THIS NEW CHURCH

I. THE BIRTH OF THIS CHURCH

A. A POWERFUL MESSAGE

1. **Acts 16:1-10**

2. **Acts 16:11-15**

- a) The conversion of Lydia led to the founding of the church @ Philippi.

3. Later on Paul and Silas were arrested and thrown into prison and then miraculously delivered.

- a) During which time the jailer and his wife were led to Christ and baptized.
- b) **Acts 16:26, 30-33**

4. In this first letter back to this young church Paul reminds them of their foundation:
The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

5. **1 Thessalonians 1:4-5**

6. **THREE THINGS ABOUT THE GOSPEL Vs 5**

- a) **POWER**
 - 1) The Gospel is powerful.

- b) **PERSUASIVE**
 - 1) Vs 5

a. "with full conviction" - or much assurance, they were convinced

c) PERSONAL

1) Vs 5

a. "You know what kind of men we proved to be"

B. A PRODUCTIVE MINISTRY

1. Acts 17:1-2

a) Paul's M/O was to go straight to the synagogue.

b) Not only would he reach the Jews but also gentiles seeking God.

2. Romans 1:16

3. Acts 17:2

a) "he reasoned with them"

1) A word that implies discourse based on questions and answers.

b) "explaining"

1) Paul explained the scriptures to them.

2) He took the O.T. and helped them see Christ.

c) "proving"

1) Means - "to lay beside"

d) "preaching"

1) Acts 17:2-3

2) Paul preached a scriptural Christ, a suffering Christ, a saving Christ.

II. THE PRODUCTION OF THE CHURCH

A. A SAVED MEMBERSHIP

1. Acts 17:1-4

2. *The church started with only saved converts.*

B. A SANCTIFIED MINISTRY

1. Their Faith was Alive

a) 1 Thessalonians 1:3

1) "your work of faith"

2) Their faith was alive and at work.

2. Their Love was Active

- a) 1 Thessalonians 1:3
 - 1) "*and labor of love*"
- b) 1 Corinthians 13 Verbs
 - 1) Love is costly, it take some energy, exertion.
- c) 1 Thessalonians 1:6

3. Their Hope was Abundant

- a) 1 Thessalonians 1:3
 - 1) "*and steadfastness of hope*"

C. A SPOTLESS MESSAGE

1. 1 Thessalonians 1:8

- a) This is what happens when we have clean hands and a clean heart.
 - 1) A converted membership characterized by "**faith**", "**hope**" and "**love**."

III. OPPOSITION TO THE CHURCH

1. Acts 17:5

- a) "*but the Jews were jealous*"
 - 1) This is what envy will do.

b) "*taking some wicked men of the rabble*" - a low class of people. KJV - of a baser sort. Evil men.

2. Acts 17:6

- a) Jason was a believer and was hosting the apostles as well as other believers.

3. Acts 17:7

- a) "*and they were all acting against the decrees of Caesar*."
 - 1) That my friends is treason.

4. Acts 17:8-9

CONCLUSION:

1. As a general principle: *When God blesses, there will be opposition.*

2. Why does this happen?

- a) *Colossians 1:13*
- b) **Wow!!!** When lives are changed, wrongs are made right, sin is repented of, forgiveness is extended and received - wonderful things happen when people find Jesus.

3. OUR PRAYER: *1 Chronicles 4:9-10*

4. *Matthew 6:13*