

1 Thessalonians

Lesson 2: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

In Acts 14:21-22 it says, “After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, ‘Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.’” Throughout history, the church has experienced great tribulation as Satan wants to stop people from entering the kingdom of God. The church can expect tribulation as there is a spiritual war going on around us and an enemy who wants to take us out. The Thessalonians experienced much tribulation as they received the gospel and their church grew. Let’s dive in deep and see how the Thessalonians handled tribulation so that we can learn from these faithful believers who went before us.

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4**

1. In verse 1, the word for church in Greek is *ekklesia*. It means “a called-out assembly; congregation.” How does Paul’s use of “church” here distinguish it from any other assembly?

2. In verses 2-3, Paul bears in mind three truths about the Thessalonian church. What are they?
 - a. What drives the work that the Thessalonians are doing?

 - b. The word *labor* has the idea of “working to the point of exhaustion.” What would motivate them to labor in this manner?

 - c. Look up the word “steadfast” in a dictionary. What does it mean? What drove the Thessalonians to continue in the face of persecution?

 - d. Where does hope come from?

3. Why would Paul begin his letter pointing out these three qualities in the Thessalonians?

4. In verse 4, what two things has God done to the Thessalonians?

Application: How should God's love for us and His election of us cause us to live?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7**

5. In verse 5, how did the message of the gospel come to the Thessalonians?

a. There is a popular statement that says, "Preach the gospel, use words when necessary." Is this statement biblical or not? Why?

b. How did Paul know the Thessalonians were truly saved?

6. In the last part of verse 5, Paul reminds them of his, Silas, and Timothy's conduct. Why is their conduct important as preachers of the word?

Application: How does our conduct in life affect the preaching of our message?

7. Who did the Thessalonians become imitators of?

8. What were the Thessalonians experiencing as they heard the message of the gospel?

a. What was the result of the Thessalonians receiving the gospel in this manner?

➤ **Read 1 Thessalonians 1:8-10**

9. What did the Thessalonians continue to do in the midst of persecution?

10. Remember, Paul is writing from Corinth and hearing about the Thessalonians from travelers. What does this tell you about the Thessalonian believers?

Application: What do you want people to say about Faith Bible Church? How can we make this happen?

11. According to verse 9, what did the Thessalonians do when they heard the gospel?

Application: How would others in your life (family members, neighbors, coworkers, etc.) describe your faith? What “evidences” would they cite as proof that you are an authentic follower of Jesus?

Application: In verse 9, the word “serve” in Greek means “to serve as a slave.” How does this definition help you to understand your relationship with Christ?

12. According to verse 10, what were the Thessalonians doing after they were saved?

13. What does verse 10 tell us about Jesus' rescue mission?

Application: The Thessalonians "turned to God from idols." Take a few moments to reflect on your heart. What sins do you need to forsake in your life?

Application: What one verse in chapter 1 impacted you the most? Why?