

STUDY PAK I

INTRODUCTION TO I THESSALONIANS

“The epistle has a threefold purpose: (1) To _____ in the elementary truth of the gospel. (2) To condition them to _____ and (3) _____ regarding the return of Christ.”

~~ J. Vernon McGee, *Thru The Bible*, volume 5, p. 368. ~~

I. PAUL’S MINISTRY IN THESSALONICA

A. See Acts 17:1-9. Paul and Silas were _____ in this city. This was on his second missionary journey.

B. Paul faced serious persecution there.

C. The Jews reacted harshly to the _____.

II. DATE

Most often thought to be written around _____ and to be the _____ New Testament book. There is also a case to be made for Mark as the first New Testament book.

III. AUTHOR - Paul the Apostle.

IV. THEME

A. Strengthening a Young Church.

Despite the opposition, a church was founded in Thessalonica. Shortly after the founding, Paul was compelled to leave. He went to Berea.

B. The Blessed Hope of the Coming Saviour

The believers are comforted by the truth of the _____.

This young church was rich in spirituality and deep in doctrine.

V. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS

A. The City Thessalonica.

1. The city was a large, respected imperial city. It was a seaport on the Aegean Sea.
2. It was a _____. It was the largest city of Macedonia.
3. It had a large Jewish population.
4. The city still exists and is known as Salonica today. It is the second largest city in Greece. A major battle was fought during World War I in Salonica. The Greeks defeated the Turks and took control of the city.
5. The city is surrounded on two sides by mountains.
6. The city was a very pagan city known for immorality.

B. Demas.

Thessalonica was where Demas went when he left the missionary team. Perhaps he was drawn by the _____, 2 Timothy 4:10. This is a temptation for all servants of the Lord.

C. Aristarchus.

Paul's missions team was joined in Thessalonica by Aristarchus and Secundus, Acts 20:4. Aristarchus stayed with him for a long time and became _____. He is singled out for praise in Colossians 4:10. Every Paul needs an Aristarchus.

D. Thessalonica was located fifty miles west of Philippi and one hundred miles north of Athens.

E. Thessalonica was named after the wife of Cassander, one of the four successors of Alexander the Great. Thessalonike was a sister of Alexander's.

F. Roman historian Cicero wrote, "Thessalonica is in the bosom of the empire."