

Class: Biblical Exegesis NT615

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Survey and Historical context in General

The Author

What I observe about the author's identity and circumstances. Acts chapter 16 gives us a timeline of the events and some of the experiences of the Apostle Paul that eventually led him through Amphipolis and Apollonia, then to Thessaloniki. On his arrival, he went to the Synagogue on the sabbath day and reasoned with the Jewish audience from the scriptures that Christ was to suffer and rise again from the dead. Many people, some devout Greeks, and leading women joined Paul and Silas. Some who did not believe created disturbances. The church at Thessalonica was started by Paul when he visited there. Due to persecution, he went to Bera, where he began with a good reception, but the unbelieving Jews caused more disturbances, and he was sent to Athens by sea. While there, he witnessed some pagan rituals, and as a result, he addressed it and had that famous speech on Mars Hill, declaring who God was to the pagans. His address to the saints at Thessalonica shows his love and concern for the saints as a dear father would for his children. He was writing because of the report he received about their situation, and he was encouraging them to stand firm despite the persecution they were going through.

The Recipients

The Apostle was writing to encourage a group of believers being persecuted for their faith. His concern seems to be that they might fall away because of the persecution. This

passage has an easily discerned outline of the circumstances that prompted this letter. The author was Paul, who included Timothy and Silas in his greetings. Most scholars believe one of them was his scribe. This was his first missionary journey to this region. There are differing views on this Epistle. Some scholars argue about this Epistle's audience, whether it was for the whole church or the leaders. I believe the scholarships and research are unanimous. Paul wrote a letter to be shared with the entire body. The nature of Paul's ministry was Christ is the revealed messiah, and the Gospel is the message of God's news of the savior. This can be seen in the introduction and greetings of the text.

My focus for the exegetical paper is 1. Thessalonians 1: 1-10. I have read this passage in NIV, ESV, NKJV, NASB, Jerusalem Bible, HCSB, and the KJV. There are numerous words difference. For example, the NIV, ESV, NASB, and Jerusalem Bible use the word conviction, while the NKJV and the HCSB use the word assurance. The NIV uses more words in their verses, but the meaning of the text has not changed. In my understanding, the styles do not give a theological preference, and in further research, this might be so in the notes of the respective translation.