

### 1 Thessalonians 1 - What are you living for?

#### Getting to know you:

1. What is the first thing you notice about people?
2. What are the first two questions you ask when meeting someone for the first time? Can you think of any new questions to ask?

#### Into the Bible

1. What is the book of 1 Thessalonians about?  
*(Take five minutes and read the entire letter)*
  - a. Who are the Thessalonians?
  - b. Where is Thessalonica?
  - c. When do the events of 1 & 2 Thessalonians occur?
  - d. What, in general, is chapter one about?
2. Even though Paul was an amazing man and apostle of God he usually did not work alone. 1 Thessalonians begins with the team Paul worked with. Who were the other two guys?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ See Acts 16:19-24 and Acts 17:1-9 (Note the relationship history)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ See Acts 16:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:5; 2:5 & 3:15; & 1 Thessalonians 3:2 (Note this guy's background)
3. What was Paul's experience church planting in Thessalonica? Note key observations from Acts 17:1-9 including what prompted Paul's deep concern for this young church.
4. Why would Paul always thank God for all of the Thessalonian church?
5. Paul lists three great Christian virtues evident among the Thessalonians. List each virtue with what it produced in their lives:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ produced work.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ produced labour.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ produced endurance.

## Application

1. How did the Thessalonians respond to the gospel according to verses 7 and 8? Have you responded to the good news of the gospel in a similar way?
  - a. How has your Life Group helped you with this?
  - b. Who are you showing how to become a total follower of Jesus Christ?
  
2. As Christians, we always need others who will show us how to become total followers of Jesus Christ, beyond the need of hearing about how to follow Him.
  - a. How has your Life Group helped you with this?
  - b. Who are you showing how to become a total follower of Jesus Christ?
  
3. What would result if the gospel got total control of your life? What happened in the lives of the Thessalonians toward the end of chapter one?

## Going Beyond

*"This letter is full of interest because it is certainly among the first of those which have been preserved for us from the pen of Paul. It was the first he wrote to European Christians, and in it the fundamental things of the Christian life are very clearly set forth."* (G. Campbell Morgan)

To become better acquainted with the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians they must first be seen as more than just theological treatises of Paul but as real letters from Paul arising out of real life situations of the apostle and his friends. Read both books as letters before dissecting them. Understand who wrote the letter, to whom and why. Read the first ten verses of Acts 17 to get a historical context of the letters to the Thessalonians. Get a good Bible atlas and locate Thessalonica and a Bible commentary to help in your own studies of the book.

To go beyond, compare these letters to the ones Paul wrote to other churches. What is different, what is similar, and how do we compare as a church today? What type of letter would Paul write (or email) to our church? Would we read it aloud to the entire church body, as was the custom in Paul's day?