**1 Thessalonians**

## **Introduction: *Events Leading Up to the Writing of this Epistle***

1 Thessalonians is Paul's first Biblical writing, probably written in A.D. 51 from Corinth during Paul's year and half ministry there. (Read Acts 17)

1. On Paul's second missionary journey, Paul and Silas fled from Thessalonica to Berea (Acts 17:10).
2. Paul fled to Athens from Berean persecution, leaving Silas and Timothy in Berea (Acts 17:14).
3. Paul sent word back, instructing Silas and Timothy to come to him in Athens (Acts 17:15).
4. Timothy rejoined Paul at Athens and was sent back to Thessalonica (3:1–5). Since Silas is not mentioned, it has been conjectured that he went back to Philippi when Timothy went to Thessalonica (3:1–2).
5. Paul moved on to Corinth (Ac 18:1).
6. Silas and Timothy came to Paul in Corinth (3:6; Ac 18:5).
7. Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians and sent it to the church.
8. About six months later (AD 51/52), Paul sent 2 Thessalonians in response to confusion that had arisen concerning the second coming of Christ.

## **1: 1 From ... To ... Because ...**

### From: Paul, Silas, Timothy

We see from the first verse that Silvanus (Silas) and Timotheus (Timothy) were with Paul when he wrote 1 Thessalonians.

### To: The church of the Thessalonians

What kind of place was Thessalonica for the new converts?

### Because: The Reason for Writing this Epistle

(READ Acts 17:1-10) Paul’s purpose in writing this letter was to ENCOURAGE the new converts.

## **1: 2-5 What You Received Was Real**

1 Thessalonians 1:2—*We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;*

## **vs. 6-10 Your Testimony is Powerful**