

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

A PILGRIM'S WALK THROUGH

THE NEW TESTAMENT

1 THESSALONIANS



Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1 The City Of Thessalonica

- Originally a Greek city 75 miles from Philippi, now in Roman province of Macedonia.
- Named after the half sister of Alexander the Great.
- A population of 200,000 souls.
- Home to one of the great naval bases of the world.
- Within sight of Mount Olympus.

2 The Church At Thessalonica

- Paul visited the city during his 2nd missionary journey with Silas and Timothy.
- The story is recorded in [Acts 17].
- The church was born in the midst of a revival and a riot.

3 The First Communication To Thessalonica

- Acts 17 shows Paul's skill as an evangelist. This letter shows his skill as a pastor/teacher.
- In 1 Thessalonians the church is under attack from outside - persecution.
- In 2 Thessalonians it is under attack from inside - a flawed view of Christ's return.

- The keyword is '**coming**' (Gk. Parousia).
- The key chapter is the 4th chapter.
- The key thought is '**be ready**'.

4 An Introduction To 'Eschatology' (Teaching on 'last things')

- [Titus 2:13] The Second Coming of Jesus is the '**blessed hope**'.
- [1:9-10] Coming to deliver His people from the wrath to come.
- [2:19-20] Coming to reward His people.
- [3:13] Coming to perfect His people.
- [4:16] Coming to resurrect His people.
- [5:23] Coming to complete our preservation.
- There was a concern in the church re the Christian dead at Christ's Parousia.
- What Paul gives them is '**thus saith the Lord**'.
- Christ's coming is:- an inspiring hope, encouraging hope, purifying hope, comforting hope and rousing hope.
- '**Maranatha-Behold The Lord Comes**'.

5 The Qualities Of A Good Minister

- [2:10] '**behaves blamelessly**'.
- [2:9] possessing a good work ethic.
- [2:4] more keen to please God than men.
- [2:6] more interested in the glory of God than his own.
- [2:5] not using the ministry to get rich.
- [1:2/3:10] praying night and day for the people of God.
- [4:6/5:14] Not hesitant to warn the '**sheep**' when necessary.
- [5:14] cherishes the people like a mother her child.
- [1:5] seeking his labour to be Spirit empowered.
- [2:19] Seeing the people as his joy and crown.

Homework - Read through the letter and find at least 12 qualities/hallmarks of a good church. We will list them in next week's notes on 2 Thessalonians.

Teaching Biblically • Thinking Biblically • Living Biblically

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