



Small Group Notes

Sermon: 19 June 2022



Part 1

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 1

OVERVIEW

Thessalonica was a thriving sea port in northern Greece and Paul had come there after preaching in Philippi where he had been beaten and thrown into prison. After being in Thessalonica for only a few weeks, he met similar opposition and had to flee the city.

How would this fledgling church survive?

Paul sent Timothy to find out how they were doing and the positive report that Timothy brings back shows that they are not just doing OK but they are an example to other believers throughout the region and their witness rings out far and wide.

Chapter 1 is full of thanks to God for this witness, for their work produced by faith, their labour prompted by love and their endurance inspired by hope.

Under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and knowing what it would cost them, they turned away from their idols to the living God and in the same moment met suffering and joy.

Their transformation and difference stands out.

QUESTIONS

1. Verse 1 - Describe what being in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and experiencing his grace and peace mean in your life (give thanks for this)
2. Verse 3 – What might work produced by faith, labour prompted by love and endurance inspired by hope look like in our church?
3. What was the story that people everywhere were telling about the Thessalonians?
4. Verse 9,10 -What might be parallels for us today of turning away from idols?

You may like to consider what idols are pressing for us today. The antagonistic Jews in Thessalonica were envious (Acts 17). What effects of envy do we see in the world around us and in ourselves? What idols do we struggle with?

5. How can the power of the Holy Spirit be in us and in our church so that the story of the gospel can be known around us?