

THE TRANSFORMING GOSPEL - STUDY 1

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

What characteristics would you associate with someone being a genuine Christian?

Thessalonica was a city in the Roman province of Macedonia (modern day Greece) - see the map below. Before we jump into 1 Thessalonians, READ about Paul's visit to the city in **Acts 17:1-15**.



1. The gospel is met with vastly different responses. What are the contrasting responses Paul's met with?

What's the main difference between those who reject the gospel and those who accept it (v4&5)?

2. Given the circumstances in which the church begins, what concerns might you have about how the church is going?
Paul writes this letter to the Thessalonians about 6 months after he's chased out of town, probably while he's in the city of Corinth. Understandably, Paul's anxious to

hear how the fledgling church is going.

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

3. As Paul begins his letter, what characteristics is he thankful the Thessalonians have?

4. How does Paul know that the Thessalonians have been chosen by God?

5. Look at verses 9 & 10. What three actions does Paul say marked the Thessalonians' conversion?

Do you think we're in danger of minimising any of these actions?
If so, which one/s, and why?

6. Are there any idols in your life that you need to turn from, as you turn to serve the 'true and living God'?

7. In verses 6-8, Paul, Silvanus and Timothy recall how the Thessalonians became "imitators of us and of the Lord", so that they in turn "became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia." What actions made them imitators and examples?

8. In verse 8, Paul says that everyone in the region has heard the remarkable change in the Thessalonian Christian's lives. How well do you think your faith is known by those around you? How well is the change in our lives as a church known in our local community?

PRAY that we would continue to be transformed by the gospel. And we would continue reaching out into our community with the gospel, even in the face of opposition and when shut down.