



SKUPINOVÉ STUDIUM BIBLE - PRVNÍ LIST TESALONICKÝM, LEKCE 1, 1Te 1,1 - 10

OTÁZKY KE STUDIU

Příštích 10 týdnů budeme studovat Pavlův první list církvi v Tesalonice. Tento dopis byl napsán okolo r. 51 po Kr. z města Korint, během Pavlovy „2. misijní cesty“. Tesalonika, přístav na břehu Egejského moře, měla v té době asi 200.000 obyvatel. V době Pavlovy návštěvy byla Tesalonika hlavním městem římské provincie Makedonie (dnes Řecko). Na mapě (např. v Bibli) najdi Tesaloniku, Filipis, Korint, Efez, Athény, Makedonii a Egejské moře.

1. Ve Sk 17, 1-9 je popsáno historické pozadí Pavlovy misijní cesty do Tesaloniky. Přečti si tento oddíl a napiš shrnutí Pavlových aktivit, včetně toho, co dělal v místní synagoze. Co tě v tomto výčtu nejvíce zaujalo?

2. Ačkoliv jsou 1 a 2 Tesalonickým nazývány „eschatologickými“ listy (zabývají se poslední dobou), mají oba tyto listy mnohem širší záběr než je diskuze o budoucích věcech. Důraz je na fungování zdravé církve a na charakteru věřících. 3x v 1Te (1,2, 2,13, a 3,9) Pavel ukazuje, jak vděčný byl za církev v Tesalonice. Čti 1Te 1, 1-3 a napiš z tohoto textu ty věci, za které byl Pavel vděčný.

- Které tři aspekty křesťanského života jsou obsaženy ve v. 3? Jak bys je mohl popsat v životě věřícího v současnosti?

3. Skutečnost, že Pavel používá termín „bratři“ (*adelphoi*) celkem 17x v 1Te, nám může pomoci pochopit, jak úzké vztahy měl s věřícími v Tesalonice. Pavel zde ve 4. verši napsal, že Bůh „vyvolil“ (*eklogen*) nebo „vybral“ tyto bratry. Vysvětlí, co Pavel myslí slovem

„vyvolený“ a k vysvětlení použij další biblické odkazy (2Te 2,13, J 15,16, Ef 1,4).

4. Zatímco 1Te 1,1-4 mluví o „vyvolených lidech“, následující pasáž (1,5-7) poukazuje na „příkladné lidi“. Čti 1Te 1,5-7 a vyjmenuj, co ukazuje na to, že tito lidé byli příkladem opravdových věřících. Co z toho by mohlo být řečeno o tvém životě?

5. Věřící v Tesalonice byli nejen vyvolení (1,1-4) a příkladní (1,5-7), ale byli také velmi nadšení (1,8). Tak, jako přijímali Slovo (*evangelium přišlo k nim* - 1,5), tak také vysílali Slovo (*od vás se Pánovo slovo rozeznělo* - 1,8). „Rozeznít se“ (*exéchetó*) znamená *odrážet se, znít ozvěnou, zaznívat, vydávat zvuk*. Tato zodpovědnost a privilegium znít evangeliem platí pro věřící také dnes. Které z veršů (vyber alespoň tři) bys mohl „rozeznít“ k vysvětlení zvěsti o Božím plánu obnovení a spasení?

6. Pavel také tvrdí, že věřící v Tesalonice byli nejen „nadšenými věřícími“ (1,8), ale také byli „očekávajícími věřícími“ (1,9-10). Čti 1,9-10 a napiš, které pravdy křesťanského života můžeš nalézt v těchto dvou verších.

- Popiš, jak můžeš následující slovesa z těchto dvou veršů (1:9-10) používat ve svém životě: „vypravovat, obrátit se, sloužit a očekávat“.

7. Shrň kapitulu 1,1-10 a popiš:

- Postoje Pavla:
- Charakteristické rysy věřících:
- Boží skutky:



1 THESSALONIANS 1

Genuine Salvation

Introduction

A. Theme: *Salvation and Sanctification*

The main theme of the first letter to the Thessalonians is salvation and sanctification. In the first half of Paul's letter, he gives thanks for the Thessalonians' salvation as Christ's work in them had been proven in their steadfast faith and love for one another. In the second half of the letter, Paul exhorts the believers to "excel still more" in the instruction they had received, walking with and pleasing God, thus continuing in their sanctification.

B. Author & Date: *The Apostle Paul, ca. 51 A.D.*

Paul wrote the first letter to the Thessalonians from Corinth circa 51 A.D. after Timothy had returned to him with news from the church in Thessalonica.

C. Purpose:

Paul wrote his first letter to the Thessalonians in response to Timothy's good report of their abounding faith. Paul was concerned for the young church in Thessalonica and sent Timothy to check on their welfare. After Timothy had returned to testify that the Thessalonians had remained steadfast, Paul wrote this letter to express his thankfulness for their perseverance and to encourage them to keep on target. Paul exhorted the Thessalonians in a moral and practical manner throughout this letter. He did not have to teach the doctrinal truths characteristic of his letters to the Romans and Galatians because, at this early date, heresy had not had the time to develop in these early churches. Yet Paul continued to emphasize the doctrine of Christ's second coming because the Thessalonian believers were concerned about those who had "fallen asleep" in their midst and because many thought it useless to continue working when Christ was soon to return.

Synopsis

The Apostle Paul was a very busy missionary, planting churches everywhere he went. He was always doing the work of Christ, spreading the Good News and discipling new believers so that they could establish a local church in their own town and continue the ministry of the Gospel. Sometimes Paul was able to stay in a town a long time to train the new Christians in the truths of God. Other times, he was only able to stay a short while and had to follow up with these churches through letters or by way of his other disciples like Silas and Timothy.

Often, Paul had to move on and minister elsewhere because he was kicked out of a city entirely, and not allowed back. This is what happened to Paul after he had spent a short time in Thessalonica establishing a church. Paul always began in a city by sharing the Gospel in the synagogue with his fellow Jews. Some would come to believe in the truth Paul preached about Jesus Christ, but others would not. These unbelieving Jews would force Paul out of the synagogue. After Paul's first three weeks of teaching in the Thessalonica synagogue, that is exactly what the Jews did.

There were some Jews who left the synagogue with Paul and followed Jesus, but most of the new Christians in Thessalonica were Gentiles who had heard about Jesus and converted from their polytheistic pagan religions. The new church would meet in peoples' homes and continue to fellowship with one another, learning about God from Paul's apostolic teaching, praying and breaking bread together to remember and worship the Lord.

The unbelieving Jews in Thessalonica became jealous of the large number of people that began to follow the teachings of Paul. They went to the house of Jason, one of the Christians in whose home the church probably met, to bring Paul before the government on the charges of breaking Caesar's laws by proclaiming another king, which was Jesus Christ. Since they could only find Jason, they brought him before the city officials. This charge of treason obliged Paul and Silas to leave the city. It is likely that Paul had already sent Timothy out of the city for some other follow-up work. Following this, Paul went to Berea to minister there and was forced out by the same network of Jews. He coordinated with Silas and Timothy to meet in Athens and then sent them out again to follow up with past church plants. He sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to see how they were doing, since they were still a young church and were undergoing trials and persecution under those same jealous Jews and other Gentiles.

Despite Paul's constant travel and persecution, never did he forget the churches he had planted. He always remembered these people in his prayers and yearned to visit them again. When Timothy had come back from Thessalonica to meet Paul in Corinth, Paul was very glad to hear that the Thessalonians were persevering through these trials and abounding in faith and love for one another.

Immediately, Paul sat down to write his beloved friends a letter to encourage them in their steadfast faith so that they might continue to walk with God and become more and more like His Son. Paul began this letter with a tender statement of thanksgiving for the Thessalonian believers. In his greeting, he included Silas (called Silvanus in the letter) and Timothy as those writing the letter.

Although Paul wrote the letter, Silas, and Timothy were of one heart with Paul and all had deep concern and appreciation for the church there. Paul reminded the Thessalonians of this by including all of these men in the pronoun "we" throughout the entire letter.

Paul wrote that they spoke to God about the Thessalonian believers. And when they prayed for these believers, they would remember their hard work in serving God and one another. This proved that the Thessalonians had received changed hearts filled with faith, love and hope. Paul, Silas and Timothy, therefore, knew that these believers were



specifically chosen by God and lived in His presence. They knew that the believers had been genuinely saved through Christ. It was evident that the Gospel that Paul, Silas, and Timothy preached to the Thessalonians was not only their human words, but that the Gospel preached was the power of God to save them. Paul had heard from Timothy of the fruit in their lives, and so he knew that they had received the Gospel with that power and with the Holy Spirit who caused them to be fully convinced of God's truth. Paul even alluded to the evidence of this supernatural power for salvation in the kind of men they proved to be among them. Paul, Silas, and Timothy had been changed by God's power. Their lives, too, were a testimony of the power of God's Word.

Having received the same genuine salvation as Paul, Silas, and Timothy, the Thessalonians began to imitate them, and the Lord, with lives of righteousness and power and joy. They were a changed people and it was evident to everyone. The testimony of their change was even stronger because they still had joy when people began to persecute them for the changes they had made. When Christians have the joy of the Lord while they suffer, they become examples for believers to stop being discontent in their circumstances. Every Christian has the same great expectation which he can look forward: the coming glory of our King, Jesus Christ!

This hope of Christ's second coming filled the hearts of the Thessalonians so deeply that they proclaimed God's Good News all the more. And they believed it themselves. Their faith was so strong that people heard about it in every place. The Christian world was not that extensive at the time, but it was impressive that everyone knew about the faith of the Thessalonians. This recognition was not meant to give credit to the Thessalonians, but rather it was meant to further glorify God. And that is what their faith did. Paul says that "the Word of the Lord has sounded forth from you...in every place." God was glorified because He was made known in every area of the region.

Believers everywhere were reporting of the great things God had done in the Thessalonians. They were no longer looking to idols but now were looking to the living God in heaven, waiting for His Son Jesus Christ who had been raised from the dead, to return for them and deliver them from the coming wrath of God for those who do not acknowledge the true and living God. This is a BIG change of heart. Can others talk about your change of heart? Is there evidence of genuine salvation in your life?

Application

Genuine Salvation

What is genuine salvation? What does it look like? Paul opens his first letter to the Thessalonians with thanksgiving for the genuine salvation that God had given the people of that church. Paul knew that their response to Jesus Christ was not incomplete or made in pretense because of the fruit that they bore by walking in the Holy Spirit. They had received the Word of God with joy by the Holy Spirit and persevered in much tribulation, becoming an example to all believers. The Gospel continued to go forth from them, as well as the testimony of others who witnessed these believers' stark change from their old pagan ways of following numerous idols to the new way of serving the living and true God in Christ Jesus.

Genuine salvation is the true redemption and new life found in Jesus Christ, God's own Son, who is the Father's perfect plan for our reconciliation to Him. We are saved by grace through faith as a work of the Holy Spirit. In this powerful work of God, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer and empowers him or her to walk with God in Christ's righteousness, thus bringing glory and pleasure to God.

Genuine salvation demonstrates sincere faith, hope, and love in a believer's life. It yields the good fruit of the Holy Spirit. The Thessalonians apparently demonstrated this and Paul was certain to encourage them in the true work of God's salvation. Because of what God had done, the Thessalonians loved one another to such an extent that they had earned a reputation. They were characterized as people with joy and peace, even amidst persecution and trial. Their goodness and faithfulness was an example to other believers. And their hearts were patiently awaiting the return of Christ.