

~THESSALONICA (406) **(Thes-sa-lo-ni'ca)**

- The principal seaport of Macedonia where Paul established a Christian congregation about the year **50 C.E.**, now the city is called **Salonika**, or, **Thessaloniki**.
- Originally, a nearby town named Therme, meaning, **Hot Spring**, was one of the some 26 towns destroyed by Cassander, who then built **Thessalonica** in **316 or 315 B.C.E.**
- He named it after his wife, the sister of Alexander the Great. This new city was situated on the West side of the Chalcidice Peninsula, on the Thermaicus Sinus, now called the Gulf of Salonika, at the junction between the road running North to the Danube and the main road, the paved Via Egnatia built by the Romans, that extended for hundreds of miles across Macedonia to the Adriatic Sea.
- Macedonia was divided into four districts before the middle of the **Second Century B.C.E.**, with **Thessalonica** the capital of the second.
- A few years later when Macedonia became a Roman province, Thessalonica was made the administrative seat of its provincial government.
- So, when the apostle Paul and Silas arrived there, about 120 kilometers. (75 miles) West of Philippi, they found it to be a thriving metropolis of quite some importance.
- For three Sabbaths, Paul preached in **Thessalonica's** synagogue. As a result, some Jews and a great multitude of Greek proselytes became believers and associated themselves with Paul and Silas, among them **were not a few of the principal women**.
- They now journeyed through Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to **Thessalonica**, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. (**Acts of Apostles 17:1**)
- So according to Paul's custom he went inside to them, and for three Sabbaths he reasoned with them from the Scriptures. (**Acts of Apostles 17:2**)

- Explaining and proving by references that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying; This is the Christ, this Jesus whom I am publishing to you. ([Acts of Apostles 17:3](#))
- As a result some of them became believers and associated themselves with Paul and Silas, and a great multitude of the Greeks who worshiped God and not a few of the principal women did so. ([Acts of Apostles 17:4](#))
- How long Paul remained there is not disclosed, though it was long enough for him and his companion to obtain work so they could support themselves.
- Although as an apostle Paul had the authority to receive material help from those to whom he ministered spiritual things, he set the example that a person should eat food he himself earns.
- We have authority to eat and drink, do we not? ([1 Corinthians 9:4](#))
- We have authority to lead about a sister as a wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the Lords brothers and Cephas, do we not? ([1 Corinthians 9:5](#))
- Or is it only Barnabas and I that do not have authority to refrain from secular work? ([1 Corinthians 9:6](#))
- Who is it that ever serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who shepherds a flock and does not eat some of the milk of the flock? ([1 Corinthians 9:7](#))
- Am I speaking these things by human standards? Or does not the Law also say these things? ([1 Corinthians 9:8](#))
- For in the Law of Moses it is written: You must not muzzle a bull when it is threshing out the grain. Is it bulls God is caring for? ([1 Corinthians 9:9](#))
- Or is it altogether for our sakes he says it? Really for our sakes it was written, because the man who plows ought to plow in hope and the man who threshes ought to do so in hope of being a partaker. ([1 Corinthians 9:10](#))

- **If we have sown spiritual things to you, is it something great if we shall reap things for the flesh from you? (1 Corinthians 9:11)**
- **If other men partake of this authority over you, do we not much more so? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this authority, but we are bearing all things, in order, that we might not offer any hindrance to the Good News about the Christ. (1 Corinthians 9:12)**
- **Do you not know that the men performing sacred duties eat the things of the temple, and those constantly attending at the altar have a portion for themselves with the altar? (1 Corinthians 9:13)**
- **In this way, too, the Lord ordained for those proclaiming the Good News to live by means of the Good News. (1 Corinthians 9:14)**
- **But I have not made use of a single one of these provisions. Indeed, I have not written these things that it should become so in my case, for it would be finer for me to die than, no man is going to make my reason for boasting void! (1 Corinthians 9:15)**
- **If, now, I am declaring the Good News, it is no reason for me to boast, for necessity is laid upon me. Really, woe is me if I did not declare the Good News! (1 Corinthians 9:16)**
- **If I perform this willingly, I have a reward, but if I do it against my will, all the same I have a stewardship entrusted to me. (1 Corinthians 9:17)**
- **What, then, is my reward? That while declaring the Good News I may furnish the Good News without cost, to the end that I may not abuse my authority in the Good News. (1 Corinthians 9:18)**
- **Certainly you bear in mind, brothers, our labor and toil. It was with working night and day, so as not to put an expensive burden upon any one of you, that we preached the Good News of God to you. (1 Thessalonians 2:9)**
- **For you yourselves know the way you ought to imitate us, because we did not behave disorderly among you. (2 Thessalonians 3:7)**

- Nor did we eat food from anyone free. To the contrary, by labor and toil night and day we were working so as not to impose an expensive burden upon any one of you. (2 Thessalonians 3:8)
- Not that we do not have authority, but in order, that we might offer ourselves as an example to you to imitate us. (2 Thessalonians 3:9)
- In fact, also, when we were with you, we used to give you this order; If anyone does not want to work, neither let him eat. (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
- For we hear certain ones are walking disorderly among you, not working at all but meddling with what does not concern them. (2 Thessalonians 3:11)
- To such persons we give the order and exhortation in the Lord Jesus Christ that by working with quietness they should eat food they themselves earn. (2 Thessalonians 3:12)
- This was probably done partly because of the tendency toward idleness that some there had. During his stay there Paul received from the brothers in Philippi two different gifts supplying things he needed.
- Because, even in Thessalonica, you sent something to me both once and a second time for my need. (Philippians 4:16)
- In time those Thessalonian Jews that rejected Paul's message rounded up a mob of idlers from the marketplace and assaulted the house of Jason where Paul was staying.
- But when they learned that the object of their search was not there, they dragged Jason and other believers off to the city rulers, that is, the politarchs, according to the literal Greek. [INT]
- But the Jews, getting jealous, took into their company certain wicked men of the marketplace idlers and formed a mob and proceeded to throw the city into an uproar. And they assaulted the house of Jason and went seeking to have them brought forth to the rabble. (Acts of Apostles 17:5)
- When they did not find them they dragged Jason and certain brothers to the city rulers, crying out; These men that have

overturned the inhabited earth are present here also. (**Acts of Apostles 17:6**)

- And Jason has received them with hospitality. And all these men act in opposition to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king, Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 17:7**)
- They indeed agitated the crowd and the city rulers when they heard these things. (**Acts of Apostles 17:8**)
- And first after taking sufficient security from Jason and the others they let them go. (**Acts of Apostles 17:9**)
- It is of special interest that inscriptions from that period have been found in and about **Thessalonica** that refer to certain of their local officials as politarchs.
- For safety's sake, Paul and Silas were sent away at night to Beroea by the **Thessalonian** brothers. There Paul found the Beroeans **more noble-minded** than those in **Thessalonica**, in that they not only received the word with great eagerness but also carefully examined the Scriptures daily as to whether what the apostle said was so.
- Soon, however, trouble developed when opposing Jews arrived from **Thessalonica** and stirred up a mob, making it again necessary for Paul to slip away secretly.
- Immediately by night the brothers sent both Paul and Silas out to Beroea, and these, upon arriving, went into the synagogue of the Jews. (**Acts of Apostles 17:10**)
- Now the latter were more noble-minded than those in **Thessalonica**, for they received the word with the greatest eagerness of mind, carefully examining the Scriptures daily as to whether these things were so. (**Acts of Apostles 17:11**)
- Therefore many of them became believers, and so did not a few of the reputable Greek women and of the men. (**Acts of Apostles 17:12**)
- But when the Jews from **Thessalonica** learned that the word of God was published also in Beroea by Paul, they came there also to incite and agitate the masses. (**Acts of Apostles 17:13**)

- Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off to go as far as the sea, but both Silas and Timothy remained behind there. (**Acts of Apostles 17:14**)
- However, those conducting Paul brought him as far as Athens and, after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as quickly as possible, they departed. (**Acts of Apostles 17:15**)
- In less than a year after leaving **Thessalonica**, Paul, by now down in Corinth, wrote his first letter to the **Thessalonians**. He had sent Timothy to comfort and encourage them and had received Timothy's good report.
- In the letter he commended them for their fine example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia and urged them not to be discouraged because of the persecution.
- Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the congregation of the Thessalonians in union with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; May you have undeserved kindness and peace. (**1 Thessalonians 1:1**)
- We always thank God when we make mention concerning all of you in our prayers. (**1 Thessalonians 1:2**)
- For we bear incessantly in mind your faithful work and your loving labor and your endurance due to your hope in our Lord Jesus Christ before our God and Father. (**1 Thessalonians 1:3**)
- For we know, brothers loved by God, his choosing of you. (**1 Thessalonians 1:4**)
- Because the Good News we preach did not turn up among you with speech alone but also with power and with Holy Spirit and strong conviction, just as you know what sort of men we became to you for your sakes. (**1 Thessalonians 1:5**)
- And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, seeing that you accepted the word under much tribulation with joy of Holy Spirit. (**1 Thessalonians 1:6**)
- So that you came to be an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. (**1 Thessalonians 1:7**)

- The fact is, not only has the word of Yehowah sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith toward God has spread abroad, so that we do not need to say anything. (**1 Thessalonians 1:8**)
- Hence, when we could bear it no longer, we saw good to be left alone in Athens. (**1 Thessalonians 3:1**)
- And we sent Timothy, our brother and God's minister in the Good News about the Christ, in order to make you firm and comfort you in behalf of your faith. (**1 Thessalonians 3:2**)
- That no one might be swayed by these tribulations. For you yourselves know we are appointed to this very thing. (**1 Thessalonians 3:3**)
- In fact, too, when we were with you, we used to tell you beforehand that we were destined to suffer tribulation, just as it has also happened and as you know. (**1 Thessalonians 3:4**)
- That is why, indeed, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to know of your faithfulness, as perhaps in some way the Tempter might have tempted you, and our labor might have turned out to be in vain. (**1 Thessalonians 3:5**)
- But Timothy has just now come to us from you and given us the Good News about your faithfulness and love, and that you continue having good remembrance of us always, yearning to see us in the same way, indeed, as we also do you. (**1 Thessalonians 3:6**)
- That is why, brothers, we have been comforted over you in all our necessity and tribulation through the faithfulness you show. (**1 Thessalonians 3:7**)
- Because now we live if you stand firm in the Lord. (**1 Thessalonians 3:8**)
- For what thanksgiving can we render to God concerning you in return for all the joy with which we are rejoicing on your account before our God. (**1 Thessalonians 3:9**)
- While night and day we make more than extraordinary

- supplications to see your faces and to make good the things that are lacking about your faith? ([1 Thessalonians 3:10](#))
- Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way prosperously to you. ([1 Thessalonians 3:11](#))
 - Moreover, may the Lord cause you to increase, yes, make you abound, in love to one another and to all, even as we also do to you. ([1 Thessalonians 3:12](#))
 - To the end that he may make your hearts firm, unblamable in holiness before our God and Father at the presence of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. ([1 Thessalonians 3:13](#))
 - Finally, brothers, we request you and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, just as you received the instruction from us on how you ought to walk and please God, just as you are in fact walking, that you would keep on doing it more fully. ([1 Thessalonians 4:1](#))
 - This letter may well have been the first of Paul's canonical writings and, with the probable exception of Matthew's Gospel, the first book of the [Christian Greek Scriptures](#) to be put into writing.
 - Shortly thereafter Paul wrote a second letter to the **Thessalonians**, that they might not be turned aside by false teachers.
 - Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the congregation of the Thessalonians in union with God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ([2 Thessalonians 1:1](#))
 - However, brothers, respecting the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we request of you. ([2 Thessalonians 2:1](#))
 - Not to be quickly shaken from your reason nor to be excited either through an inspired expression or through a verbal message or through a letter as though from us, to the effect that the day of Yehowah is here. ([2 Thessalonians 2:2](#))
 - Let no one seduce you in any manner, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction. ([2 Thessalonians 2:3](#))

- Over the years Paul no doubt revisited **Thessalonica** on occasions when passing through Macedonia in the course of his travels.
- Now after the uproar had subsided, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had encouraged them and bidden them farewell, he went forth to journey into Macedonia. (**Acts of Apostles 20:1**)
- After going through those parts and encouraging the ones there with many a word, he came into Greece. (**Acts of Apostles 20:2**)
- And when he had spent three months there, because a plot was hatched against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he made up his mind to return through Macedonia. (**Acts of Apostles 20:3**)
- Just as I encouraged you to stay in Ephesus when I was about to go my way into Macedonia, so I do now, that you might command certain ones not to teach different doctrine. (**1 Timothy 1:3**)
- And certain Thessalonians who are mentioned by name, Aristarchus and Secundus, were traveling companions of Paul.
- There were accompanying him Sopater the son of Pyrrhus of Beroea, Aristarchus and Secundus of the **Thessalonians**, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and from the district of Asia Tychicus and Trophimus. (**Acts of Apostles 20:4**)
- Going aboard a boat from Adramyttium that was about to sail to places along the coast of the district of Asia, we set sail, there being with us Aristarchus a Macedonian from **Thessalonica**. (**Acts of Apostles 27:2**)
- Demas, who forsook Paul in Rome, went to **Thessalonica**, possibly his hometown.
- For Demas has forsaken me because he loved the present system of things, and he has gone to **Thessalonica**, Crescens to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. (**2 Timothy 4:10**)