

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 **Greetings and praise for the Church of the Thessalonians**

### Greeting to the Church in Thessalonica

<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Remembering their Zeal for the Lord in prayer

<sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup> remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, <sup>4</sup> knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

### Effectiveness of the Gospel message in Thessalonica

<sup>5</sup> For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

### Example to other Churches

<sup>8</sup> For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. <sup>9</sup> For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

### Greeting to the Church in Thessalonica [1 Thessalonians 1:1]

- ✚ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy are together as the letter to the Thessalonians was written.
- ✧ Addressed to those who have their faith in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✧ They begin the letter by wishing them grace and peace which only comes from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✧ By inserting the word "our" in reference to God, Paul is declaring that God is a personal God of himself as a Jew and of the Gentiles to whom he is writing in common.
- ✧ **Paul** was the son of Jewish parents, whose father was a Pharisee as was Paul, of the tribe of Benjamin, born in Tarsus of the Roman province of Cilicia. [Acts 21:39, 23:6, Philippians 3:4-7]
- ✧ **Timothy** was the son of a Jewish mother and Greek father from Lystra in the Roman province of Lycaonia. [Acts 16:1]
- ✧ Silvanus is not known except as a companion of Paul mentioned four times in Scripture. [2 Corinthians 1:19, 1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2 Thessalonians 1:1, and 1 Peter 5:12] Probably of Greek ancestry since he is named after Silvanus the Roman god of the forest and farming.
  - ✧ Some believe that Silvanus was the same person as Silas the Jew from Jerusalem who accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey, however there is no positive proof of that supposition. [Acts 15:1-41]
- ✧ Thus those sending their greeting to the Thessalonians represent both Jews and Gentiles.

### Remembering their Zeal for the Lord in prayer [1 Thessalonians 1:2-4]

- ✚ The Church of Thessalonica was planted by Paul and his companions on his second missionary journey. [\[Acts 17:1-4\]](#)
- ✧ As in the majority of his epistles, Paul indicates that he is praying for the Church to which the epistle is addressed, and his prayers include thanksgiving for them and their faithfulness in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✧ Paul continues to remember their work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✧ All this is expressed openly in the sight of God.
- ✧ Paul knows that the beloved brethren have an election by God.

#### Effectiveness of the Gospel message in Thessalonica [\[1 Thessalonians 1:5-7\]](#)

- ✚ Paul remembers the events that took place when he first delivered the Gospel message to the Thessalonians.
- ✧ The message of the Gospel had been given by the spoken word, in power, and in the Holy Spirit, delivered with much assurance.
- ✧ The message was demonstrated in the lives and actions of Paul and his company, becoming an example for the Thessalonians.
- ✧ The Thessalonians had become followers of Paul and his company and of the Lord.
- ✧ They had received the word of the Gospel with joy of the Holy Spirit in the midst of persecution and affliction by unbelievers.
- ✧ As such the Thessalonians themselves became examples to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia (Greece).

#### Example to other Churches [\[1 Thessalonians 1:8-10\]](#)

- ✚ The Thessalonian Saints had sent out the message of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus throughout Macedonia, Achaia, and wherever their reputation had reached.
- ✧ The reputation of their faith toward God has gone out so greatly and freely that Paul said, "We do not need to say anything."
- ✧ Those who bring the report to Paul declare the effectiveness of Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians, how they turned from idolatry to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His son from Heaven.
- ✧ God raised Jesus from the dead, and Jesus delivers us from the Wrath to come.