

The Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ

I Thessalonians 1:1-10 / October 15, 2022

PHILIPPI

1. Paul receives a vision to go to Macedonia instead of Asia

Acts 16:9-12

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.

THESSALONICA

2. Paul reasons with the Jews during the 2nd missionary journey

Acts 17:1-2a

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days

3. Paul proves Jesus as the Messiah from the O. T.

Acts 17:2b-3

he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus, whom I proclaim to you, is the Christ."

4. Paul welcomes the diversity of those converted to Jesus

Acts 17:4

And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.

5. Paul and Silas are persecuted by the Jews in Thessalonica

Acts 17:5-9

But the Jews were jealous, and taking some wicked men of the rabble, they formed a mob, set the city in an uproar, and attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd.

And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, "These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus."

And the people and the city authorities were disturbed when they heard these things.

And when they had taken money as security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

BEREA

6. Paul and Silas flee to Berea as the Jews from Thessalonica persecute them in Berea

Acts 17:10-13

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue.

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.

But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was proclaimed by Paul at Berea also, they came there too, agitating and stirring up the crowds.

ATHENS

7. Paul flees to Athens while Silas and Timothy remain in Berea

Acts 17:14-15

Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and Timothy remained there. Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

8. Paul sends word to Timothy in Berea to return to Thessalonica while Paul was in Athens

I Thessalonians 3:1-5

Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, that no one be moved by these afflictions...For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

CORINTH

9. Paul arrives in Corinth and welcomes Silas and Timothy from Macedonia (Thessalonica and Philippi)

Acts 18:1,5

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth (18:1) When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. (Acts 18:5, ESV) But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— (I Thessalonians 3:1-6, ESV)

10. Paul writes First Thessalonians (49-50 AD) and Second Thessalonians from Corinth (50-51 AD)

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST (1:1-4)

The Foundation of the Church (1:1b)

1. Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
2. To the church of the Thessalonians in
3. God the Father and the
4. Lord Jesus Christ:
5. Grace to you and peace.

The Praise of the Church (1:2)

1. We give thanks to God always for all of you,
2. constantly mentioning you in our prayers,

Philippi

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:3-11, ESV)

Colossae

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:3-14, ESV)

Ephesus

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:15-23, ESV)

Rome

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. (Romans 1:8-12, ESV)

The Character of the Church (1:3)

1. remembering before our God and Father your
 - a. **work** of faith and *(What: Past)*
 - b. **labor** of love and *(How: Present)*
 - c. **steadfastness** of hope *(Why: Future)*
2. in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Measure of a Church: Faith, Love, Hope

1. Thessalonica	51-52 AD	(1 Thess. 1:2-10)	8. Smyrna	94-96 AD	(Rev. 2:8-11)
2. Rome	56 AD	(Rom 1:8-15)	9. Pergamum	94-96 AD	(Rev. 2:12-18)
3. Corinth	55-56 AD	(I Cor. 1:4-9; 2 Cor. 1:3-11)	10. Thyatira	94-96 AD	(Rev. 2:18-29)
4. Colossae	60-62 AD	(Col. 1:3-8)	11. Sardis	94-96 AD	(Rev. 3:1-6)
5. Ephesus	60-62 /94-96 AD	(Eph. 1:15-23; Rev. 2:1-7)	12. Philadelphia	94-96 AD	(Rev. 3:7-13)
6. Philippi	60-62 AD	(Phil. 1:3-11)	13. Laodicea	94-96 AD	(Rev. 3:14-22)
7. Asia Minor	65-67 AD	(I Pet 1:3-9; 2 Pet 1:3-11)			

Work, Labor, and Endurance in Creation: A Picture of the Christian Life

Work of Faith	Labor of Love	Endurance of Hope
And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and	To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. (Genesis 3:16, ESV)	Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.” (Genesis 3:16, ESV)
fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. (Genesis 1:28-29, ESV)	Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it (Genesis 3:17-18, ESV)	all the days of your life ; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. (Genesis 3:17-18, ESV)
And Adam knew his wife again	and she bore a son and called his name Seth for she said, “God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.”	To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh . At that time people began to call upon the name of the LORD.

The Value of the Church (1:4)

1. For we know, brothers *loved* by God,
2. that he has chosen you,

Ephesus

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ**, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:3-6, ESV)

Rome

And we know that for ***those who love God*** all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the ***firstborn*** among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Romans 8:28-30, ESV)

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. (1:5-10)

The Arrival of the Gospel (1:5)

1. because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also
2. in power and
3. in the Holy Spirit and
4. with full conviction.
5. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

The Five-Fold Description of Creation: Genesis

Holy Spirit: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Word: And God said, "Let there be light,"

Power: and there was light

Conviction: And God saw that the light was good (Genesis 1:1-5, ESV)

Among You: So God created man in his own image, / in the image of God he created him; / male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27, ESV)

Power of the New Creation: John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5, ESV)

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:9-13, ESV)

The Acceptance of the Gospel (1:6-7)

1. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord,
2. for you received the word
3. in much affliction,
4. with the joy of the Holy Spirit,
5. so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

The Advancement of the Gospel (1:8-10)

1. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but
2. your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.
3. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and
 - a. how you turned to God from idols
 - b. to serve the living and true God, and
 - c. to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Samuel: Turned from God from Idols to Serve God to Wait for Deliverance

Turned: And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and

Serve: direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only. (I Samuel 7:3-11, ESV)

Wait: Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the LORD has helped us." So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. The cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath, and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. There was peace also between Israel and the Amorites. (I Samuel 7:12-14, ESV)