



Thessalonians: The Model Church  
From Sermon 9.5.21

Read *Acts 17:1-5*

Review from Sunday's sermon: We finally arrive at our new series in Thessalonians. This was a model church that brought its founder much joy. Due to its start date and location, this faithful church was surrounded by a depraved culture. The church's members had to learn and unlearn so much concerning faith and discipleship. This is an extremely practical book for the church and any believer who strives to be faithful in a darkening world.

1. Who wrote 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians? What do we know about him and his spiritual journey? The Apostle Paul, under inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Paul (Saul) starts out as a highly educated Pharisee. He will be early Christianity's biggest persecutor. Following his dramatic conversion, Paul becomes the church's greatest missionary and church planter. He will pen about 30% of the New Testament.

2. Read *Acts 17:11*. What noble quality did the Bereans possess and practice that the Thessalonians would have to learn? Not taking anyone's word at face value—even the Apostle Paul! Checking all things out next to Scripture to insure truth.

2a. How is this quality so needed, yet neglected in the modern church? Extremely needed and utterly neglected. People just come and go to church and assume it's truth/Any tv, radio, or book personality.

3. What is the difference between spiritual immaturity and worldliness?

- Immaturity: Being new to the faith. Having to learn, first, the basics about Scripture, Jesus, and Church. See 1 Peter 2:1-3 & Hebrews 5:12-14
- Worldliness: Knowing the truth and making a confession for Christ, but, then living like and living with the world. Unaddressed sin. Distorted values. See also Romans 12:1-2 & 1 John 2:15

4. Thessalonica was the capital of Macedonia. What is the fascinating tie-in connected to prophecies in the book of Daniel? 500 + years before Paul's letter, God give Daniel a detailed vision of the ancient world's future. One of the foreseen kingdoms is Greece, led by Alexander the Great. 200 years after Daniel's prophecy, Alexander will, indeed, conquer the mighty Medes and Persians. After his death, his kingdom is divided into four weaker states. Macedonia is one of those, with Thessalonica as its capital. See Daniel 8:19-22

5. On Sunday, it was pointed out that the Thessalonian Christians were anxious. One of the things they were anxious about was Christ's return. What aspect of His return concerned them? Someone was telling them that Jesus may have already returned and they may have missed it.

See also *2 Thessalonians 2:1-5*

5a. Addressing the same concern, what do we know about Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming that stands in stark contrast to His 1<sup>st</sup> coming? Almost everyone missed His first coming—humble, human, & servant. No one on the planet—living or dead—will miss His second coming—exalted, judgment, fire, & ruler.

See *Revelation 1:7*

6. What aspects of Christ's return concern you or make you anxious? Various Personal Answers

6a. How do you address those and find peace? Various Personal Answers