

# THESSALONIANS

Chapter 1: Paul's Greetings, Thanksgivings, and Affirmations

# THESSALONICA AND THE THESSALONIANS

- Thessalonica was city of Macedonia visited on Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> preaching tour after the "Macedonian call" – Acts 16:9
  - Located on the Egnatian Way, a heavily travelled Roman road
  - Major trade city that would maximize their preaching efforts
- The Thessalonians:
  - Church established after success in the synagogue – Acts 17:1-4
  - Paul's description indicates much work was done among the Gentiles – 1 Thess. 1:9
  - Being a predominately Gentile congregation would explain Paul's great concern for them from the beginning.

# Paul's Greetings and Thankfulness

- Writers were Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy – 1:1
- Addressed as one's living in fellowship with God – 1:1
  - They were the “church...**in** God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
- Thanksgivings – 1:2-5
  - Expressed in his continual prayers for them – 1:2
  - Thankful for their work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope – 1:3
  - Thankful for his *sure* knowledge of their election in Christ – 1:4-5; 2 Thess. 2:13-14

# Paul's Affirmations of their Salvation

- Affirms their salvation based on things he had observed – 1:6
  - Became followers of him, his companions, and Christ – 1 Cor. 11:1
  - Received the word in much suffering and joy of the Holy Spirit – Gal. 5:22-23
- Affirms based on the example they had set after his departure
  - Their faith caused them to become *imitators* and then *examples* – 1:7
  - Their faith-filled discipleship was encouraging brethren everywhere – 1:8
- Their changed lives and dedication affirmed the genuineness of Paul's work in the gospel among them – 1:9
- Their conversion had changed their outlook and purpose of life – 1:10; 2 Thess. 1:8