

## **Letters of St. Paul to the Thessalonians**

### Study Questions\*

- Read Acts 17:1-9. What do I know about the church in Thessalonica?
- What convinced Paul that the Thessalonians were chosen by God?
- How did they first become imitators and then models for the faith (1 Th 1:6-10)?
- What rumors about Paul were being spread by his opposition (1 Th 2:1-6)?
- What difficulties were the Thessalonians facing (1 Th 2:14-15) and how would Paul's example of perseverance in the face of persecution encourage them?
- Why do I think Paul called the Thessalonian church his "hope," "joy," and "crown"?
- How would the Thessalonians have felt if they had remained ignorant of the Christians's resurrection and of Christ's return?
- In 1 Th 5:12-15, what people make up the Christian community?
- Read the introductions to Thessalonians. What has happened between Paul's first letter and his second? How has persecution affected the church?
- What is the evidence that they are "worthy" of God's kingdom? (2 Th 1:3-5)
- What quality does Paul admire most in the Thessalonian Christians?
- What is God's ultimate purpose in allowing the "man of lawlessness" to deceive people? What signs mark his appearing? (2 Th 2:1-10)
- How and why will God save his people? (2 Th 2:13-15)
- How might a misunderstanding of Paul's earlier teaching (1 Th 5:1-3) have led to the problem of idleness? (2 Th 5:6-7) What model does Paul leave for the others to follow?
- Why does Paul call attention to his handwriting in 2 Th 3:17?

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\* Questions courtesy of *Serendipity Bible for Groups* (NIV), fourth ed., 1998, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing)