

After listening to the initial class of our study of the book of First Thessalonians, use the following questions to further your study and find application within our own lives. Read the Scriptures first, then consider the questions that follow.

First Thessalonians Class #1

#1. Read about Aristarchus: (Acts 19:29 / 20:4 / Acts 27:2 / Colossians 4:10-11)

- A. Where is Aristarchus from within the Macedonian region?
- B. Had Aristarchus ever had hardships with Paul in Ephesus and beyond?
- C. What did Aristarchus offer to Paul as a traveling companion & fellow prisoner?
- D. Did Paul & Aristarchus share a common religious background before conversion?

#2. Let's Take a Look at Thessalonica geographically:

- A. Find Thessalonica on a Bible Map or Look it up online.
- B. What other cities mentioned in Acts 16 & 17 are close by (within a hundred miles)?
- C. How far is it from Philippi to Thessalonica? Thessalonica to Berea?
- D. How radical were the jealous Jews from Thessalonica to travel (w/o cars) to Berea?
- E. If evil is that radical, should our desire to follow Jesus be more radical and go farther?

#3. Read Acts 17:1-9

- A. What was Paul's custom when coming to a town with a Jewish synagogue?
- B. Did Paul really apply verses like Romans 1:16 to his "custom"? Romans 2:9-11?
- C. Paul sought to imitate Jesus in teaching the Jews first, then all other nations.
Should we parallel this in doing good toward our brothers first, then all others?
- D. What teaching did Paul want to impress upon the Jewish hearts each Sabbath?
- E. Who responded? Did Paul limit his preaching to only the synagogue? Should we?
- F. Why were the hard-hearted Jews so jealous? How do you respond when jealous?
- G. Does simply knowing that Jesus is king and Lord equal obedience? What was missing?

#4. Read Acts 17:9-15

- A. Where do Paul & Silas (Silvanus) begin their preaching in Berea?
- B. Why were the Berean Jews more noble-minded than those at the synagogue in Thessalonica? Are all Jews the same? Are all Christians the same?
- C. Who all believed at Berea? Where does faith come from? [Romans 10:16-17]
- D. How wicked were the jealous Jews of Thessalonica? How far did they travel?

#5. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18

- A. Were Paul & Silas eager to see the saints of Thessalonica face to face?
- B. Who hindered Paul & Silas from coming?
- C. Did Satan hinder Timothy from coming to them? [1 Thessalonians 3:6-10]
- D. Does God always use the best person for the job? Was it better for Timothy to go?
- E. When you thought others were better suited for a task, did God use you anyway?