

# “1 Thessalonians 1:1–10”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of April 18, 2026.

**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I began a series about 1 and 2 Thessalonians. I wasn't sure how fast that I was going to be covering the material, but I wanted to spend time with background information. The title of the first presentation was “1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.”

## **Background material**

Before we started reading from 1 Thessalonians, I wanted to provide some background material. I chose to quote from *Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts*. Following are excerpts from page 424.

■ “Both Thessalonian epistles were during Paul's second missionary journey, thus making them among the earliest of the New Testament books. After a brief stay in Thessalonica (the capital city of Macedonia), Paul journeyed to the south through Berea and Athens to Corinth—where he spent 18 months. During the early part of his stay in Corinth from A.D. 51 to 52, Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians.”

■ “In Paul's time, Thessalonica was the prominent seaport and the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia. This prosperous city was located on the Via Egnatia (the main road from Rome to the east) and was within sight of Mount Olympus—legendary home of the Greek pantheon.”

■ “A city of perhaps 200,000 in the 1st century A.D., Thessalonica had a sizable Jewish population, and the ethical monotheism of the Jewish religion attracted many gentiles who had become disenchanted with Greek paganism.”

## **Leading up to Thessalonica**

The city of Thessalonica is first mentioned in Acts 17. Before we read that verse, let's notice verses leading up to that point.

I recommend that you begin in Acts 16. While a Bible student can read through Acts 16 rather quickly, it would take a significant amount of miles and time to travel from the cities mentioned to Thessalonica.

- Acts 16:1—Derbe and Lystra
- Acts 16:2—Lystra and Iconium

- Acts 16:6—When they had gone through the regions of Phrygia and Galatia, they were led by the Holy Spirit (“forbidden”) to preach the Word in Asia. (A map will show you that the area of Asia was the location of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3.)
- Acts 16:8—They made it west to the port town of Troas.
- Acts 16:9—Paul had a vision from a man of Macedonia saying: “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”
- Acts 16:10—After Paul saw the vision, they decided to go to Macedonia.
- Acts 16:11-12—They sailed to Macedonia and went to the city of Philippi—“which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia.”

### **Arriving in Thessalonica**

- Acts 17:1—They arrived in Thessalonica.
- Acts 17:2—Paul preached for three Sabbaths.
- Acts 17:3—Paul’s message was about Christ suffering and rising from the dead.
- Acts 17:4—Many people were persuaded to join Paul and Silas.
- Acts 17:5-9—When some of the Jews were envious, they gathered some of the evil people into a mob and went looking for Paul and Silas.

### **Sent to Berea**

- Acts 17:10—The brethren sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea.
- Acts 17:11-12—Many people in Berea valued the Scriptures more than many people in Thessalonica did.
- Acts 17:13—Some of the people from Thessalonica went to Berea to stir up the crowd there.

### **Sent to Athens**

- Acts 17:14-15—The brethren sent Paul away by sea—south to Athens.
- Acts 17:16-34—Paul spoke in Athens.

### **18 months in Corinth**

- Acts 18:1—Paul went west to Corinth.
- Acts 18:11—Paul spent 18 months in Corinth.

While Paul was in Corinth, he wrote to the brethren in Thessalonica.

### **Father and Son**

- 1 Thessalonians 1:1—From Paul, Silas and Timothy—“to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: ‘Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.’”

- 1 Thessalonians 1:2-4—Paul mentioned how much he appreciated them (mentioning their work of faith, labor of love and patience of hope)—in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:5—The gospel was given in word, but also in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6—The brethren became followers of the writers (Paul, Silas and Timothy) and of the Lord. The brethren had a mixture of affliction and joy.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8—The brethren were examples to all of Macedonia, Achaia and surrounding areas—their example was more important than the preaching.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:9—Many brethren turned to God—from idols to serve the living and true God.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:10—The brethren were determined “to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”