

## **An Introduction to the Thessalonian Letters**

1 Thessalonians 1:1; Acts 17:1-13

Understanding the background and circumstances of the letters the Apostles wrote is crucial to sound interpretation and application.

1. What were the background, social circumstances, and importance of Thessalonica?
  - a. Background
  - b. Social circumstances
  - c. Importance
2. Why did Paul go to Thessalonica?
  - a. He had received a call to preach the gospel to the Macedonians.
  - b. He had been imprisoned and run out of Philippi.
  - c. Thessalonica was a highly strategic city for the advance of the mission.
3. What was Paul's message to the Thessalonians?
  - a. The Christ had to suffer, die, and rise from the dead.
  - b. Jesus was the Christ.
  - c. Turn from idols, serve the true God, and await Jesus' return and final rescue.
4. What were the results of Paul's labors?
  - a. A small number of Jews believed.
  - b. Many God-fearing Greeks believed.
  - c. Some prominent women believed.
  - d. The Jews stirred up opposition and had Paul run out of town.
5. What precipitated Paul's first letter?
  - a. Some were seeking to undermine his ministry by false accusations against him.
  - b. Persecution and hardship were weighing heavy on this church.
  - c. Cultural influences needed correction.