

1 Thessalonians Study 1

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Opening Question:

What is the best compliment you've ever received?

Body of this week's study:

It's important to note Paul's reason for writing the Thessalonians. Unlike several of his other letters, one of his primary goals was to applaud how well they were doing. They were open to we encourage those that are applying the gospel to their lives, rather than always focusing on those that are struggling.

This letter also demonstrates how quickly God changed these people. Only a few months before, the Thessalonians were lost. A few months later, they had become models "to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia" and later their "faith in God [had] become known everywhere" (v. 8). May that be our prayer for all new believers at UVA.

Text Questions:

1. Why do you think Paul chose to open the letter this way?
2. What sticks out to you in this passage?
3. How did the Thessalonians become models for all Macedonian and Achaian believers?

Application Questions:

1. Who has modeled the Christian life for you and how has it impacted your walk with Christ?
2. Do you feel like you're a good model for your core group?
3. How do you encourage your core group members?

4. How would someone describe your leadership and life?

5. What would you keep and what would you like to change?

Creative Implementation for the Week/Spiritual Exercise:

What sort of reputation would you like to have? Be specific. Would you like to be known as a man/woman of prayer? Encouragement? Love? Service? Close your eyes and dream big. Then take a moment to write these desires down and form your own prayer. Ask God to change you on the inside and make you this type of person. List any scriptures that might coordinate with the desires of your heart.

Memory Verse:

“The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia- your faith in God has become known everywhere.” – 1 Thess. 1:8