

Preaching Schedule SUMMER 2014 1 THESSALONIANS

Introduction

Paul's ministry in Thessalonica began promisingly enough. Acts 17 relates how Paul's teaching on three successive Sabbaths led to the conversion of some Jews and a large number of God-fearing Greeks, including several prominent women. Tragically, Jewish opposition instigated a riot that precipitated Paul and Silas' departure.

Timothy was sent back to encourage the church and discover the condition of this city's gospel sapling. 1 Thessalonians, one of the earliest Pauline epistles, was written after Paul received Timothy's encouraging report. They were "standing firm in the Lord."

Paul is filled with thanksgiving at their perseverance in faith and love. For the assurance of their faith, he reminds them of the history of the gospel's power among them. He is eager to encourage the new believers into patterns of active, godly living. He longs for them to grow in holiness and love. In the midst of trial, he emphasizes the certainty of Christ's second coming.

1 Thessalonians reveals Paul's pastoral heart for the churches he visited. Although not heavy on doctrine, the Thessalonian letters make an important contribution to our understanding of end times. We note that churches in the midst of trial are often in greatest need of clear assurances about the outcome of their present suffering. Even in the context of suffering, Paul can encourage them to... "Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;

Schedule

Jul. 27: Eph. 1:3-14 The Grace of God. (John Hartung)

Aug. 3: 1 Thess. 1 Miraculous turnaround—from idols to the living God. (Jeremy Jackson)

Aug. 10: 1 Thess. 2:1-16 A shared history in gospel labor. (Will Trautman)

Aug. 17: 1 Thess. 2:17-3:13 Encouraging news—Labor not in vain. (Nathaniel Jackson)

Aug. 24: 1 Thess. 4:1-12 Progressing in holiness and love. (Stefan Matzal)

Aug. 31: 1 Thess. 4:13-18 "We will always be with the Lord." (Jeremy Jackson)

Sept. 7: 1 Thess. 5:1-11 Living according to the time and season. (Nathaniel Jackson)

Sept. 14: 1 Thess. 5:12-28 "This is the will of God for you." (Stefan Matzal)

The Eldership: June 2014