

**Dwelling in the Word/Word-Share-Prayer     Acts 17 & I Thes. 1 – 2 Third Way 6.1  
Yellowstone Presbytery   November 2, 2018**

**The Uproar in Thessalonica**

17 After Paul and Silas<sup>[a]</sup> had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah<sup>[b]</sup> to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, “This is the Messiah,<sup>[c]</sup> Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.” <sup>4</sup> Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. <sup>5</sup> But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason’s house. <sup>6</sup> When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers<sup>[d]</sup> before the city authorities,<sup>[e]</sup> shouting, “*These people who have been turning the world upside down* have come here also, <sup>7</sup> and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.” <sup>8</sup> The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, <sup>9</sup> and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go. (NRSV)

1. What do you hear the Holy Spirit doing, saying?

2. What were the charges against the Christians?

(Later, note characteristics of their behavior, practices & lives in I Thessalonians)

3. To live first as citizen of heaven NOW, what attitudes, behaviors, practice might you, might we as communities of disciples need to be doing/learning? And NOT doing?

Ask the Holy Spirit what may be an idolatries in your life? (See Spiritual Exercise on p. 4 of Whitworth Third Way handout)

## **1 Thessalonians 1 – 2:12**

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

### **The Thessalonians' Faith and Example**

2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters<sup>[a]</sup> beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup> so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup> For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup> For the people of those regions<sup>[b]</sup> report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup> and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

### **Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica**

2 You yourselves know, brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> that our coming to you was not in vain, <sup>2</sup> but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. <sup>3</sup> For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, <sup>4</sup> but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup> As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; <sup>6</sup> nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, <sup>7</sup> though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle<sup>[b]</sup> among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. <sup>8</sup> So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

<sup>9</sup> You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters;<sup>[c]</sup> we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. <sup>11</sup> As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, <sup>12</sup> urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

### **5:12-22**

<sup>12</sup> Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. <sup>13</sup> Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. <sup>14</sup> And we urge you, ... warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. <sup>15</sup> Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.