

## **Text: 1 Thessalonians Chapter 1**

### **Introduction: Who and Where in the world?**

Acts 9, 15, 16:

Paul, Silas, Timothy

Acts 16:

Region of Galatia

Mysia

Bithynia

Troas

Macedonia

Samothracia

Neopolis

Philippi

Amphipolis

Acts 17: 1-10

Thessalonica (a church established)

A mission cut short

### **Theme:**

Endure suffering. Encouraging believers with the hope of Christ's return

### **Key Thought:**

**God calls His people, plants His church, changes their lives, and gives hope regardless of circumstance**

### **Outline**

1. Gone but not forgotten (1:1-4)
  - a. A letter received
  - b. Sent to the church
  - c. Prayer for grace and peace
  - d. Continual and prayerful thanks
  - e. The church members are chosen by God
2. The testimony of God's church at Thessalonica (5-10)
  - a. Conversion came through Word and Power
  - b. Conversion radically changes the believer
  - c. Conversion creates a heart of compassion for the lost
  - d. Conversion causes the believer to guard his testimony
  - e. Conversion creates a hope for eternity with Christ that enables believers to endure and persist in their faith

### **Questions:**

1. What are some similarities between the Thessalonian church and our church?
2. What are some of the differences between the Thessalonian church and our church?
3. How can a believer cut through the circumstances of suffering and get to a place of grace and peace?
4. Does conversion always change us?
5. Why don't we pray more?
6. What can we do about that?