

## The Relevance of 1 Thessalonians

This week we will finish up the gospel of Mark and begin 1 Thessalonians. Paul's first inspired letter to the Thessalonians is an interesting book, written to an interesting church, in an interesting city.

- The city was founded by Cassander in the late 4<sup>th</sup> century.
- By the 1<sup>st</sup> century it had grown to 200,000 people.
- The city was loaded with idolatry.
- Paul established a church here on his second preaching journey (Acts 16-17).

Here are four reasons why 1 Thessalonians is relevant to our lives.

### I. Repentance is relevant.

- A. These Christians had truly repented.
  - 1. They turned from idols...
  - 2. To serving a living and true God (1 Thessalonians 1:9).
- B. Repentance is key to one being truly converted (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 17:30; 2 Peter 3:9).

### II. Relationships are relevant.

- A. This book gives teaching on how Christians are to treat one another.
  - 1. Paul speaks of the relationship he had with them (1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2:7, 11).
  - 2. We are to excel in our love for one another (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10).
  - 3. We are to esteem highly our leaders (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).
  - 4. We are to live peaceably with each others (1 Thessalonians 5:13).
  - 5. We are to admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with one another (1 Thessalonians 5:15).
  - 6. We must never seek revenge against each other (1 Thessalonians 5:15).
- B. Satan can never divide us if we follow these instructions!

### III. Sexual immorality is relevant.

- A. Paul deals with this issue in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8.
  - 1. They were to excel in matters of sexual purity (4:1).
  - 2. They were to abstain from sexual immorality (4:3).
  - 3. They were to use their bodies for the purpose of sanctification and honor (4:4).
  - 4. If they rejected God's will, they rejected God (4:8).
- B. We have been given these same admonitions (Hebrews 13:4).

### IV. The return of Jesus is relevant.

- A. These Christians had questions about this matter (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11).
  - 1. It will take place (5:2).
  - 2. It will take place like a thief in the night (5:2).
  - 3. The unprepared will experience destruction (5:3).
- B. How should we respond?
  - 1. We need to be alert and sober (5:6).
  - 2. We need to be dressed (5:8).
  - 3. We need to be encouraging (5:11).

**Conclusion:** Are you prepared for the return of Jesus?