

THE CHURCH OF THE THESSALONIANS  
I THESS. 1:1

Introduction:

- A. The Bible is written to people and about people.
  - 1. people = men of like passions.
  
- b. The two letters before us are letters to a church from the missionary that founded it.
  - 1. Paul, God called, Church sent.
  - 2. Acts 13:1 Antioch.

I. THE FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH

- A. Acts 17:1-15.
  - 1. Founded in the scriptures. v2
  - 2. Saved by the gospel. v3
  - 3. Changed by the gospel. I Thess. 1:9.

I. THE CHANGING OF THE CHURCH.

- A. At first they were not as diligent as Paul desired.
  - 1. Acts 17:10-11.
  
- b. The people were changed by the Word of God.
  - 1. I Thess. 2:13.
  - 2. "work in them effectually."
  - 3. Wonder what happened to the church at Berea?
    - a. Parable of Soil.
  
- c. Churches can change!
  - 1. They can become worse.
    - a. Seven churches of Asia.
  - 2. They can become better.
    - a. Thessalonians.

III. THE POSITION OF THE CHURCH.

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- A. "in God the Father."
  - 1. Distinguishes it from pagan assemblies.
  - 2. Associations, whether religious or political.
  
- B. "in the Lord Jesus Christ."
  - 1. Distinguishes it from Jewish assemblies.
  
- C. "of Thessalonians"
  - 1. Were of God, were Jesus, were also in Thessalonica.
  
- D. We should remember our position.
  - 1. Though we hold a heavenly relationship, we still live in the world.