

Introduction to the Book of 1 Thessalonians

Background

- Written by Paul...
- Thessalonica
- Paul’s contact with the Thessalonians
 - 1) Acts 17:1-3
 - 2) 1 Thess. 2:9; 2 Thess. 3:8
 - 3) Results → Acts 17:4-10
- This is a book about...
- Purpose

Paul shares his heart for _____ – patterned after Jesus’ example and command to _____ – in order to encourage the church at Thessalonica to become _____ in Christ.

1 Thessalonians: _____ the Church

Mt. 28:18-20	<i>Going</i>	<i>Baptizing</i>	<i>Teaching</i>
1 Thess.	(1:1-2:16)	(2:17-3:13)	(4:1-5:28)

Application

God → Others to Me

God → Me to Others

- Evangelism
- Follow up
- Instruction
Discipleship

Discipleship in the Gospels

Matthew 28:19-20 – Christ’s mandate = “Make _____”

- By *going*
- By *baptizing*
- By *teaching*
 - 1) Teaching what?
 - 2) *Way-of-life* versus _____ disciple-making

Why “Discipleship in the Gospels?”

- Existing programs for intentional disciple-making
- Use of the word *disciple* in the New Testament

Goals For Our Study

- Help us follow Christ _____
- Help _____ to follow Christ

Getting Started

- Who are the 2 or 3 people who have had the greatest _____ on your spiritual walk?
- Skill versus _____
- What are the _____ qualities of a true disciple?
- How can I build these into...my life? ...lives of others?

A Vital Reminder

- 1 Corinthians 3:7 - _____ causes the growth
- John 15:5 – When it comes to bearing fruit, apart from Christ I can do _____