**1 Thessalonians**

**Colossians**

**Titus**

**Timothy**

**Thessalonians**

**Philippians**

**Ephesians**

**Galatians**

**Corinthians**

**Romans**

**Philemon**

**Hebrews**

**James**

**Jude**

**John**

**Peter**

Background:

* Thessalonica was a bustling seaport city. It was an important communication and trade center, located at the junction of the great Egnatian Way and the road leading north to Danube. It’s population numbered about 200,000, making it the largest city in Macedonia.
* It’s important to understand the situation surrounding the writing of 1st Thessalonians.
  + Paul, Silas, and Timothy were having a rough stretch on their 2nd missionary journey.
    - In Philippi they suffered beating and imprisonment **vs. 2:2**
    - Persecution grew quickly in Thessalonica **vs. 2:17-18**
    - Paul, Silas, and Timothy flee to Berea

***Intro***: Think of 2 or 3 attributes would you expect a “model Christian church” to have ?

**Chapter 1 Faith of the congregation**

1. Verse 1 tells us the Thessalonians were “in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” What important truths can we find in this statement? [2 things]
2. Verses 2-3 tell of Paul’s joy having heard a good report back from his coworker Timothy. What three things does Paul cite as a source of his thankfulness?
   1. Discuss: Are these things clearly evident in our congregation? How do continue to grow in these areas?
3. Read verses 4-5. Paul gives us a glimpse into how God has chosen us. How does he come to us?
   1. A/D We have to decide to believe before God can come to us.
4. Read verses 6-7. A/D? A pastor should urge his congregation to imitate him.

**Chapter 2 Faith of the pastor**

1. Paul, Silas, and Timothy faced tough opposition in this area of the world yet “with the help of our God” they spoke in spite of opposition. What does this lead us to confess about ourselves? In what ways does this lead us to rejoice?
2. Read verses 3-4. In what ways can understanding the work of a pastor as a ‘sacred trust’ bring benefit to the work of a pastor? (ref. 1 Cor 4:1-4)(2 thoughts)
3. In verse 7 Paul describes a faithful pastor as a mother (lit. nursing mother). In what ways is a mother a good description of faithful pastor?
4. Read verses 8-9. Paul was the most influential of the apostles in the New Testament, yet being Paul wants to make sure people don’t get a false view of ministry. Of what does he remind us in these verses?
5. Paul uses the first 12 verses to talk about himself and verse 10 he makes a bold claim. Is Paul just tooting his own horn? (Explain)

***Takin’ it Home***

1. 1 Thessalonians is written to a newly established congregation, but it has advice that stretches to all believers. Look at your notes. What are 2 or 3 things we can take as an example from 1 Thessalonians?