

Paul in Thessalonica

1 Thessalonians 1:1 – 2:16

by Don Falkos

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Paul and Silas had been poorly treated in Philippi, suffering a beating and imprisonment. When they left Philippi, they and Timothy brought the good news to the people of Thessalonica, telling them about Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. They proclaimed the message boldly in spite of strong opposition. They didn't use flattery to try to win the people over; they didn't pretend friendship in order to get money; they were not looking for praise. They spoke from honest concern with no deceit or impure motives or trickery.

The power of the Holy Spirit was at work, assuring the people what they were hearing was true. They gave Paul and the others a wonderful welcome and believed their message, seeing it not as empty words from men but as the word of God.

Paul and his companions openly displayed their concern for the people of Thessalonica and also lived in a way to constantly express sincere affection. They worked hard day and night to avoid being a financial burden. They treated each new believer the way a father treats a beloved child, encouraging, comforting, and urging the living of a life pleasing to God.

The Gentile believers in Thessalonica turned away from idols to serve the true, living God. They remained faithful despite suffering persecution instigated by the Jews and perpetuated by other Gentiles – friends, neighbors, even family members. Their perseverance led to good works, loving deeds, enduring hope in the Lord Jesus Christ, and anxious expectation for the return of the Son of God.