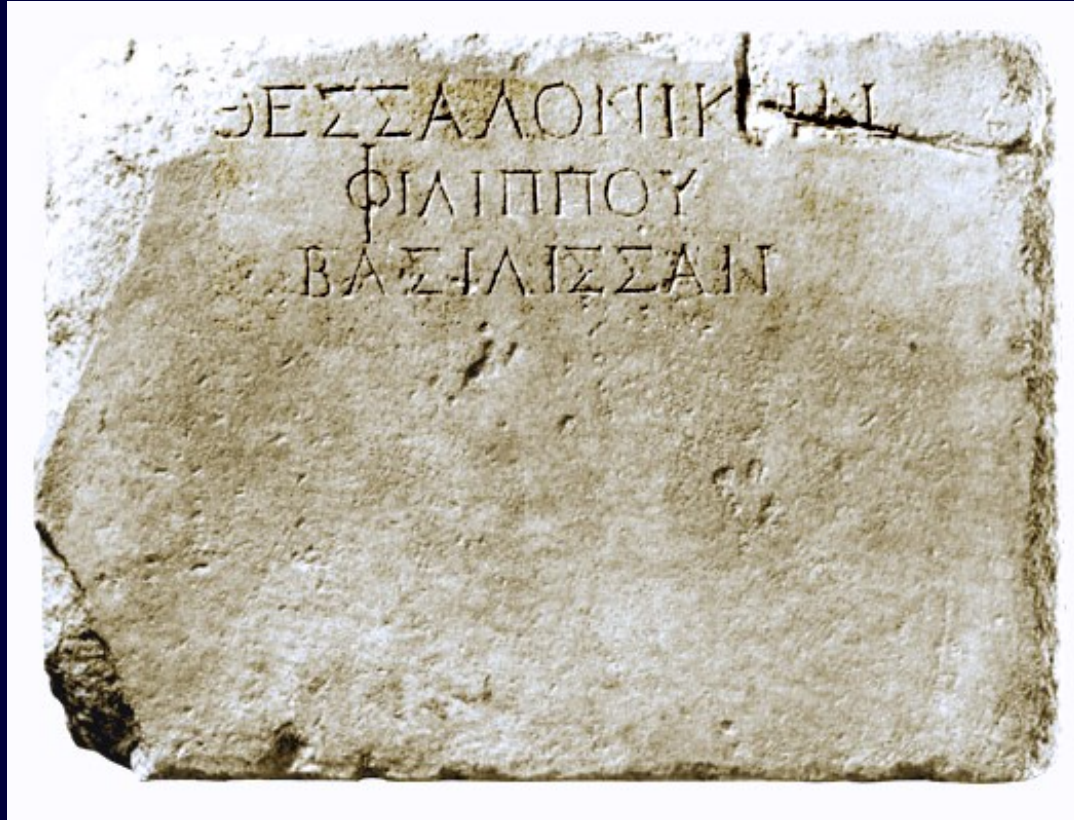


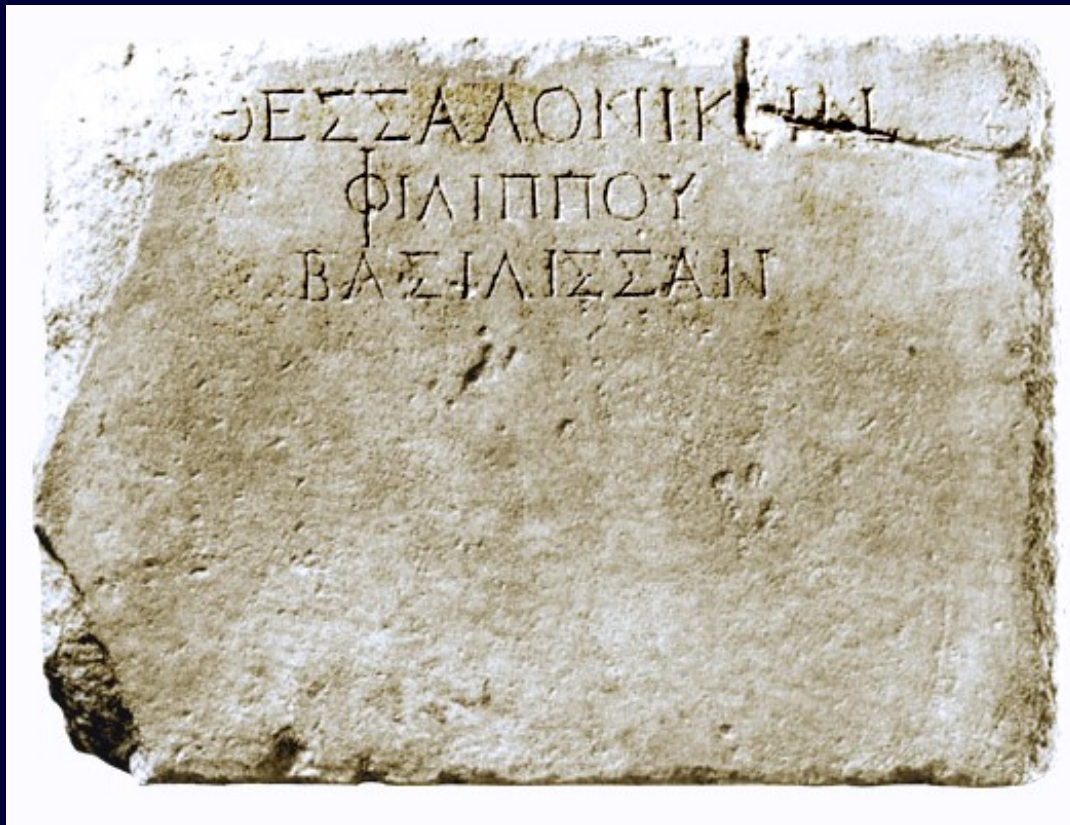
Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

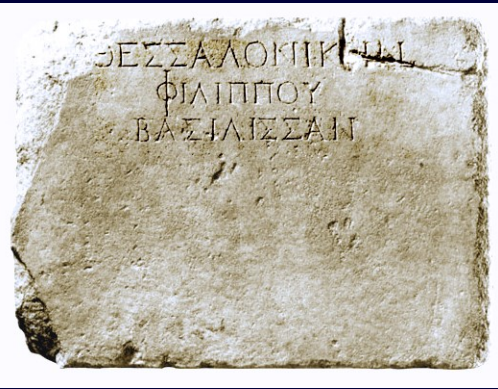
Church – The Beginnings, Part 48
The Gospel is Planted in Thessalonica
Acts 17:1-10



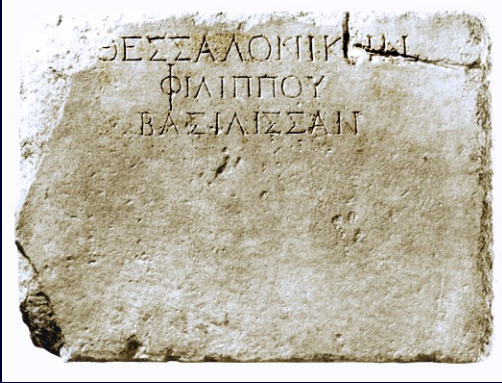


Ancient Stone Inscription: “To Queen Thessalonike, (Daughter) of Philip” – from the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki

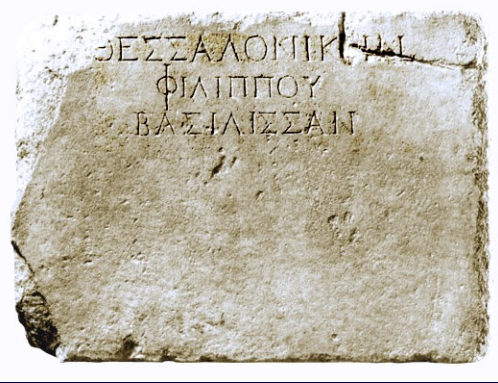




After planting a church in Philippi, with much difficulty and suffering, Paul's team travels to Thessalonica. Philip of Macedon was the namesake of the City of Philippi. Philip was the father of Alexander the Great. Alexander's half-sister was Thessalonike - same dad, different moms. There's a connection between Philippi and Thessalonica - two principal cities in the Roman Province of Macedonia. Planting Churches in Principal Cities was Paul's strategy. That way, those churches could, later, evangelize the whole surrounding region, around those Principal Cities. Thessalonica was quite literally at the cross roads of two major trading routes and it had a major shipping harbor, as well. Thus, just like Philippi, it was a Principal Roman City and was at the cross roads of major trade routes, as well. This was a God-led Gospel Spreading Strategy

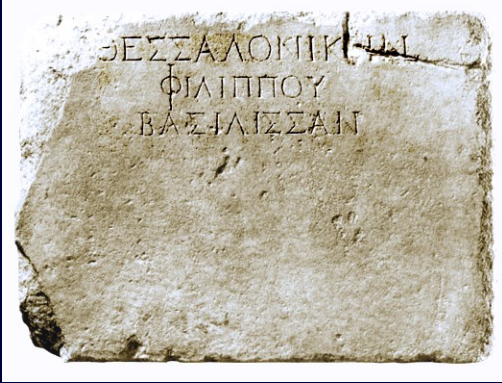


Just as the book of Philippians is directly linked to Acts 16:9-40 so it is with the First 3 Chapters of 1 Thessalonians - it also relates directly to Paul's trip from Philippi into Thessalonica (Acts 17:1-10) - and the planting of the Thessalonian church. Paul recounts his time with them with much detail in 1 Thessalonians, with much more emotion and with intimate personal closeness → he wanted to see their faces again - he says that a few times in 1 Thessalonians chapters 1 thru 3. He longed to see them again. He was so happy about their full surrender to Christ and how others in the regions around them heard about the Thessalonians turning to Christ from idolatry, etc. They received the Word of God, as the Word of God. 1 Thessalonians was written very early on, as he was just leaving Athens (see the rest of Acts 17) or soon after. The Thessalonian Church is still a shining example for us, today.



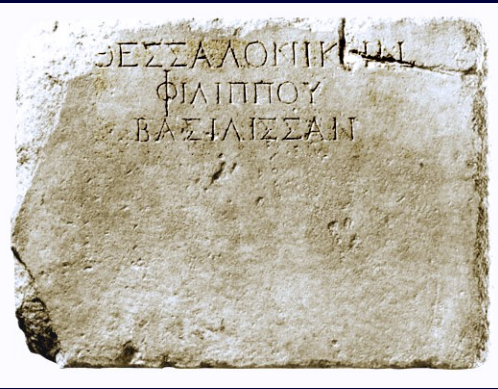
**1 Thessalonian chapter 1 - Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**²We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention
of you in our prayers, ³remembering without ceasing your
work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our
Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and
Father, ⁴knowing, beloved brethren, your election by
God. ⁵For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but
also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much
assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among
you for your sake.**



1 Thessalonian chapter 1–

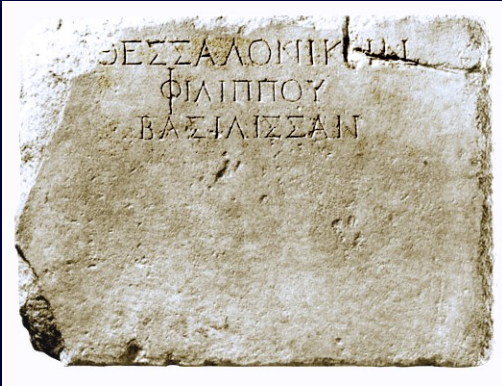
⁶ And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. ⁸ For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. ⁹ For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



1 Thessalonian chapter 2 – (snippets)

¹ For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

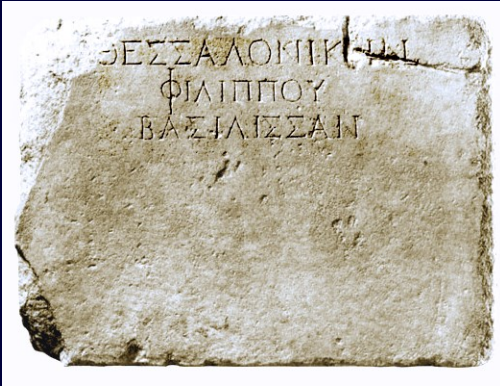
⁷ But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. ⁸ So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us. ⁹ For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.



1 Thessalonian chapter 2 – (snippets)

13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the WORD of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. 14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans

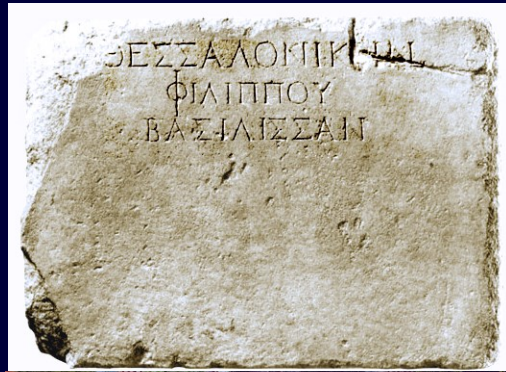
17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire.



1 Thessalonian chapter 3:1-6 –

¹ Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, ² and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, ³ that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. ⁴ For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent [Timothy] to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

⁶ But now that Timothy has come [back] to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also [greatly desire] to see you



Acts 17:1- 10a - ¹ Now when they [i.e.: Paul's Missionary Team] had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² Then Paul, as his **CUSTOM** was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths **REASONED** with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and demonstrating that the Christ [i.e.: the Messiah of Israel] had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ [i.e.: is the Messiah]." ⁴ And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, **JOINED** Paul and Silas.

- There was **NO ALTER CALL** – no Preach and Pressure
- It took a while – Paul spent almost a month or more
- Paul developed a “way of doing things” - “**CUSTOM**”
- **REASONED** → **SEEKING** to **PERSUADE** (within context)
- **JOINED?:** Jews, Gentile God Fearers, & pagan Gentiles

Acts 17:1- 10a –

5 But the Jews who were NOT persuaded, becoming ENVIOUS, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them [i.e.: Paul's Team and the new church] out to the people.

.....
So, Paul's Holy Spirit-empowered, Biblical Reasoning did not Persuade some of the Jews in that Synagogue after 3 weeks of intense teaching, demonstrating and explaining the Old Testament Prophecies of the Messiah and how they matched the Historical Jesus of Nazareth. The Motivation for what happened next is ENVY and/or Jealousy.

**This is instructive for us → not all will be Persuaded by the Gospel Message and sometimes it can become violent.
→ Jason's house was the “base camp” of Paul's team.**



Acts 17:1- 10a –

5 But the Jews who were NOT persuaded, becoming ENVIOUS, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them [i.e.: Paul's Team and the new church] out to the people. 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. 7 Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king → JESUS."

The Charges against Jason and some of the brethren?

- Those who cause Riots in other towns have come here.
- They teach things contrary to being a Roman Citizen
- Jason is the one who's been abetting these criminals

This is similar as to the false charges in previous towns Paul addr.s this in 1 Thess. 2 & 3 – Jesus in Matt. 5:10-12

We are to REJOICE in the LORD when Persecuted



Acts 17:1- 10a –

5 But the Jews who were NOT persuaded, becoming ENVIOUS, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason,

8 And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. 9 So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

After all of this RIOTING and MOB VIOLENCE – it just took a Security Pledge/Payment to alleviate the Mob. It was really BAIL MONEY / BAIL PAYMENT to those City Rulers. It was Paid to Ensure (or as a BOND) that Jason's guests were, actually, good Roman Citizens, and that they were NOT Criminals in any way. It was to Ensure this against these charges and any future charges. Once, the officials received it, it was enough to disperse the mob. It might cost us – but we must ensure this same thing to those around us, for the Gospel's sake. We are Good People, not Criminals



Acts 17:1- 10a –

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8 And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. 9 So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea.

Have you noticed a pattern yet? When the riots occur, because of the Gospel being planted in a City or region and violence breaks out – Paul and Barnabas – or – Paul and Silas (and his team) are kicked out of that city or region. But, there is a church planted and left behind. The church was not kicked out, but Paul and his Team were, typically.



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This allows the Gospel to keep spreading to more and more towns, cities, and regions. This is a good thing.





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Paul and Silas eventually send Timothy back to make sure the Thessalonian church continues to Thrive in the LORD. We see that Paul & his team continue to maintain connections with past churches planted.



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So, it is today, we need to continue connections with each other and the Written WORD of God, the Bible. We need to soak up God's Word, be encouraged, strengthened and established in Christ, in the Word of God – so that we, like the Church of Thessalonica – we can spread the Gospel in and around our area, SATURATING the area with the Gospel – telling our Testimony and the Gospel to all those who will listen, all around us (1 Thess. 1:6-10)

