



Session 7: Salvation and Persecution in Thessalonica

READ:

Acts 15:1–17:15; 1 Thessalonians 1, 2

CONNECT: Joy in Relationship

Describe someone you know who brings you joy. Why do you think they make you feel this way?

WATCH: Salvation and Persecution in Thessalonica

As you watch the video, fill in the following:

Paul came to love the Thessalonian Christians and be encouraged by their _____
_____.

When did Paul write his two letters to the Thessalonians?

List the three main difficulties Paul addressed in his epistles to the Thessalonians:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What did the unbelieving Jews in Thessalonica do?

According to Paul, when did God choose to save the Thessalonians?

According to Paul, how did God call the Thessalonians to salvation?

DISCUSS

- What is something that stood out to you from the video?
- Paul and the Thessalonians suffered together for their faith (Acts 17:5-9). Have you ever suffered or gone through something really difficult with another person or group (not necessarily for your faith)? If so, how did that experience affect your

relationship?

- Summarize Paul’s message to the Thessalonians regarding their election and conversion.
- How can Paul’s perspective about the Thessalonians’ salvation encourage believers who are suffering or being persecuted?

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART: Bold, Gentle Love

- Note what the following verses tell us about how Paul related to the Thessalonians:
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:2, 3
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:2-6
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:8
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:9
- What stands out to you about Paul’s relationship with the Thessalonians?
- What do the following verses tell us about how the Thessalonians related to Paul:
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:6
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- How does the relationship between Paul and the believers in Thessalonica confirm or expand the way you see the apostle Paul?

APPLY:

- Where has this study encouraged you in your faith?
- Where has it challenged you? What do you want to do as a result?
- Where do you need “boldness in our God to declare ... the gospel of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:2)?
- Who can you ask to pray for you to boldly proclaim the gospel, as Paul asked the Ephesians to pray for him? (Ephesians 6:19, 20)
- What do you see in Paul’s model of relationships that you could apply to a specific relationship of yours?
- How else might you apply something that you have seen in Paul’s model of relationships?