

ST PAUL AS LEADER
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Sequence

- Dating and locating St Paul
- Thessalonica and Thessalonians
- The background
- The letter
- Metaphors and messages
- Conversation
- Prayer

Dating and locating St Paul

- Born c. 6 BC, in Tarsus (Cilicia)
- Encountered Christ: c. AD 34-37, near Damascus
- First ministry c. AD 35-49 (Cilicia and Syria)
- Second ministry. C. AD 50-64/67 (Asia Minor, Greece, Italy)
- So, roughly: a Pharisaic Jew for about 40 years
- A Christ-believing Jew for the next 30 years

- Birth c. 6 BC - conversion c. 35 - death c. 64/67
- The early Paul, with Antioch as his base 35-48?
- The later Paul, with Ephesus as his base 48-64?
- The martyrdom of Paul at Rome?
- From the first missionary period, no letters
- From the second missionary period, 7 letters at least.

Thessalonica and the Thessalonians

- Capital of the Roman Province of Macedonia
- Rich and significant port
- Paul was the first to proclaim Christ there
- He converts were all Gentiles (><Acts)
- He spent a considerable time there
- Around the year 49 or 50.
- Part of the second missionary journey

The background

- Paul stayed some time in Thessalonica
- He moved south to Athens
- Meanwhile, some kind of persecution occurred
- They asked him to come back
- He was unable and sent Timothy instead
- The Thessalonians were not best pleased!

- Meanwhile, Paul had moved on to Corinth
- Timothy caught up with Paul there and gave his report

- Paul then wrote “1 Thessalonians”
- It was intended that Timothy should bring the letter back
- Part of the letter answers questions (chapters 4-5)
- The first part is intended to restore relationships

	Letter	Speech (Rhetoric)
1:1	Superscript	
1:2-10	Thanksgiving	Introduction
	<i>1:9-10</i>	<i>Thesis in 3 parts</i>
2:1-3:12	Body	Proof 1: Relationships
4:1-12		Proof 2: Holiness
4:13-5:11		Proof 3: End-time issues
5:12-27	Exhortations	Peroration
5:28	Postscript	

Metaphors and messages

- 1:1-10
- 2:1-16
- 2:17-3:5
- 3:6-13

Task: ask questions, notice the metaphors and pay attention to what Paul was the Thessalonians “to hear”.

Conversation

Prayer

Great and loving God, give us always good shepherds after your own heart. Give us the grace that we, in our turn, may enable those who guide to fulfil their calling, as together we build up the body of Christ.

We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit God for ever and ever. Amen.