

# “GET READY: A Man, A City, & A Church”

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Sunday, April 11, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI

Pastor Jonathan DeCou

1 Thessalonians 1:1 & Acts 17:1-10a

**BIG IDEA:** Before Jesus returns, God has a work to do in us and through us.

*“Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy:*

*To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Grace to you and peace.”*

*1 Thessalonians 1:1 (CSB)*



## **A MAN: The Apostle Paul.**

- He was a **MISSIONARY EVANGELIST**.
- He was a **SERVANT LEADER**.



## **A CITY: The City of Thessalonica.**

- It was a **STRATEGIC** city.
- It was a city in **NEED** of the **SAVIOR**.



## **A CHURCH: The Thessalonian Christians.**

- It was a **YOUNG** church.
- It was a **THRIVING** church.
- It was a **PERSECUTED** church.

- It was a **CONFUSED** church.
- It was a **BLESSED** church.

**BIG IDEA:** Before Jesus returns, God has a work to do in us and through us.

**READ:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1 & Acts 17:1-10a

**THINK:** Think about the start of the Church at Thessalonica, then ask yourself these questions: *When have you been part of something “new”? What were the high points of that experience? The low points of difficulties you faced? What do these passages teach you about the life, ministry and “style” of Paul, especially as you read about his relationship and work with Silas & Timothy? Why do you suppose Paul selected Thessalonica as his next “church plant” in Europe? What does this tell you about prioritizing and strategizing for the best Kingdom impact? What accusations did Paul encounter as he was begun the work in Thessalonica? What do you suppose motivated these accusations? This the 6th time Paul had been forced by persecution to leave an area; how do you suppose he felt about his mission (see 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6 for some clues.)? How would you feel about your mission if that happened to you? What about this young church impresses you the most?*

**DO:** Whether Jesus or Caesar was Lord became a real issue for early 1st century Christians. When has your faith in Jesus Christ led to conflict with other authorities claiming your loyalty? Whether you are new in the faith or a seasoned believer, what is your current level of expectation for the return of Jesus Christ?