

# PREPARING FOR THE COMING KING

## 1 THESSALONIANS



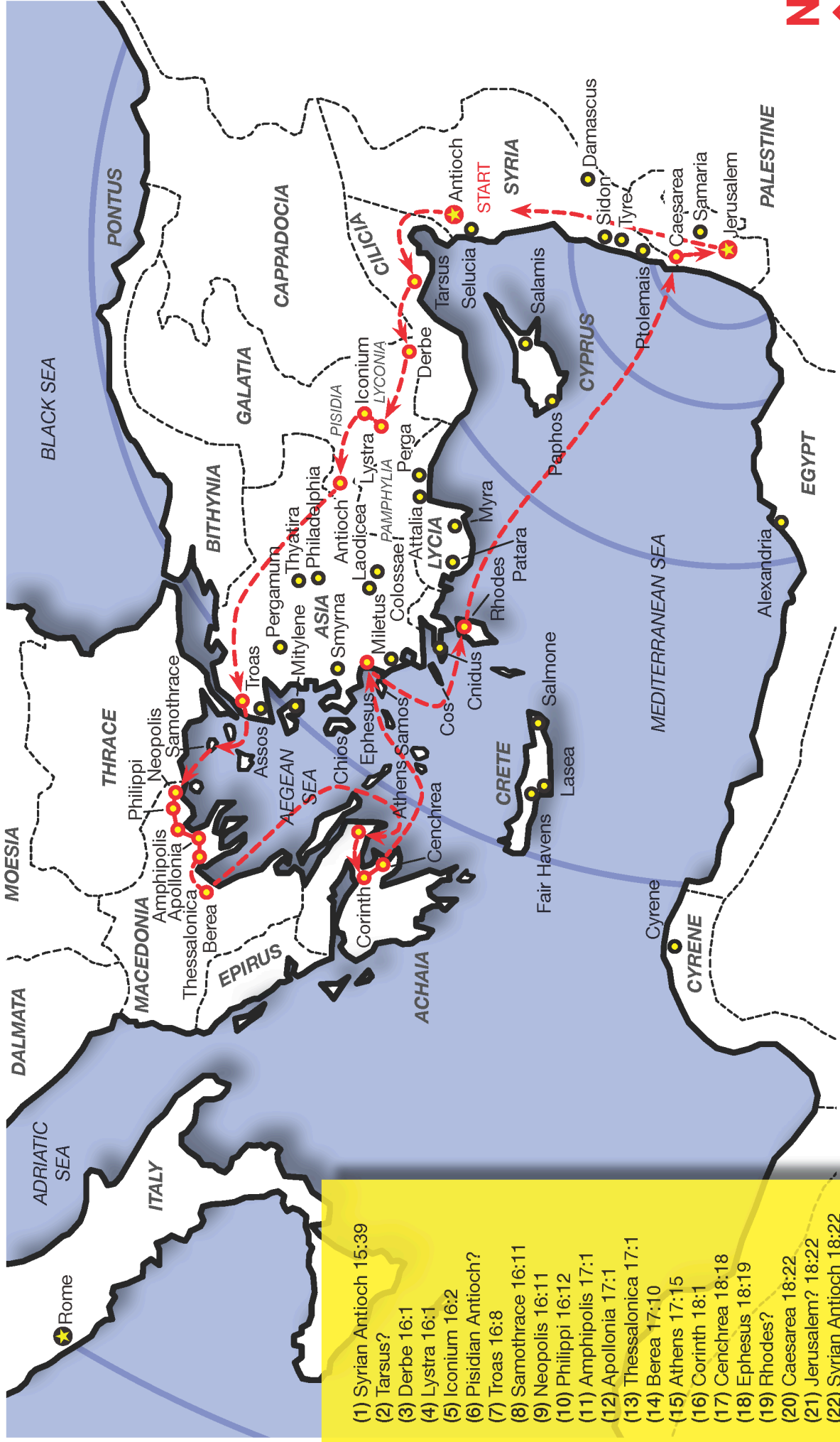
### TEACHING SERIES | TERM 4, 2020

18 October	Engadine Heathcote Anglican Vision Week
25 October	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
1 November	1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
8 November	1 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:13
15 November	1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
22 November	1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
29 November	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
6 December	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
13 December	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28



# PAUL'S SECOND MISSION ACTS 15:39 - 18:22 AD 49-52

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- (1) Syrian Antioch 15:39
- (2) Tarsus?
- (3) Derbe 16:1
- (4) Lystra 16:1
- (5) Iconium 16:2
- (6) Pisidian Antioch?
- (7) Troas 16:8
- (8) Samothrace 16:11
- (9) Neopolis 16:11
- (10) Philippi 16:12
- (11) Amphipolis 17:1
- (12) Apollonia 17:1
- (13) Thessalonica 17:1
- (14) Berea 17:10
- (15) Athens 17:15
- (16) Corinth 18:1
- (17) Cenchrea 18:18
- (18) Ephesus 18:19
- (19) Rhodes?
- (20) Caesarea 18:22
- (21) Jerusalem? 18:22
- (22) Syrian Antioch 18:22

## STUDY 1

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 *Transformed by God*

1. What do you think are the marks a healthy church?

### READ ACTS 17:1-15

2. What do these verses tell us about the church in Thessalonica?

### READ 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

3. According to v. 2, what does Paul say that he, Silas and Timothy do?
4. In vv. 3-10 Paul expands on why they do this. We'll work through these all these verses before returning to the question of 'why?'.
  - a. How does Paul begin to describe the Thessalonian church in v. 3?
    - i. What do you think v. 3 teaches us about work, labour and endurance?
  - b. In v. 4, Paul says 'we know ... that God has chosen you'. Examine the following verses and discuss what evidence Paul provides for this claim.
    - i. v. 5a
    - ii. vv. 5b-6
    - iii. vv. 7-10

5. Having looked at vv. 3-10, why do you think Paul, Silas and Timothy in v. 2 ...
  - a. “thank **God**” for the Thessalonian church?
  - b. “continually mention” the Thessalonian church in their prayers?
6. Overall, how would you describe the church in Thessalonica? How might this impact the way we understand the rest of the letter, or what we expect to come?
7. From this passage, what would you say are the marks of a healthy church?
8. How does this passage help us understand where the imitation of Christ begins? (v. 6)
9. Do you think our growing in understanding the gospel matters? Why?

## STUDY 2

## 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 *Authentic Gospel Ministry*

1. What do you think are the marks of healthy Christian leadership?

### RE-READ ACTS 17:1-4

2. How long did Paul spend in Thessalonica?

In 1 Thess. 2:1-12, Paul reminds the Thessalonians of his ministry during his time with them. This is how he proclaimed the gospel and established the church in Thessalonica.

### READ 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

3. In vv. 1-2, Paul reminds the Thessalonians of when he, Silas and Timothy, told them the gospel. What was significant about this?
4. How and why did they do this? (vv. 2-4)
5. List the motives and tricks that were *not* found in Paul's gospel proclamation (vv. 3-6)
6. In vv. 7-12, Paul reminds the Thessalonians that it was not just the gospel they shared. What else did they do? List out the different ways they did this, and discuss why they might have done this. (c.f. 1 Thess. 1:6)

7. In these verses, Paul is reminding the Thessalonians of his ministry among them, as he proclaimed the gospel and established the church. Why do you think he is reminding them of this? (c.f. 1 Thess. 2:17-20)

8. We are not Apostles, like Paul was. But neither were Silas and Timothy. And like Silas and Timothy, we too have been entrusted with the proclamation of the gospel – Matt 28:18-20.

What are some ways that these verses help us consider how we might “Build Up and Reach Out for the Glory of Christ”?

9. In what ways do you see these verses helping us have healthy expectations of those who lead us in Christ?

10. How do these verses contribute to our thinking about “physical” and “online” church?

## STUDY 3

## 1 Thessalonians 2:13 – 3:13 *God's Word At Work In You*

1. What did/do you miss the most when, because of Covid-19, we were/are unable to physically gather on Sunday's or in our Growth Groups?

### READ 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13–3:13

#### 1 Thess. 2:13-16

2. According to v. 13, why does Paul give thanks?
3. What evidence does Paul give for this? (v. 14-15)
4. Why is Paul so negative about “the Jews” in vv. 14-16? Is he talking about all Jews? (c.f. Acts 17:1-4)
5. Why is it so important that we recognise the “word of God” for what it really is?

#### 1 Thess. 2:17-20

6. Why is Paul so eager to see the Thessalonians face-to-face? What do you find surprising about this?
7. What do these verses teach us about the importance and purpose of our relationships with each other?

**1 Thess. 3:1-10**

8. Unable to see the Thessalonians face-to-face, Paul sent Timothy instead. Why Timothy? And for what purpose? (vv. 1-5)

9. What news did Timothy bring back to Paul? What does Paul still hope for? (vv. 6-10)

**1 Thess. 3:11-13**

10. Here Paul prays for the Thessalonians. What does he pray for?

11. As God answers Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians, in what way would you expect him to do so?

**1 Thess. 2:13 – 3:13**

12. As a group discuss together how 1 Thess. 2:13 – 3:13 challenges the way we think about the purpose and shape of our relationships with each other.

13. What is one thing that this passage will change about how you ...

a. relate to others in your Growth Group

b. walk into church on a Sunday



## STUDY 4

# 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

## *God's Will, Your Sanctification*

1. As a follower of Jesus, when do you find yourself living differently from those who don't?

### READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8

2. According to v. 1, what has Paul instructed the Thessalonians to do in the past? How are they going with this?
3. What does Paul urge them to do now? What does this teach us about the Christian life?
4. In v. 3, Paul repeats himself with different words: "It is God's will that you should be sanctified".
  - a. What does 'sanctified' mean? (See also v. 7)
  - b. How does being sanctified connect with Paul's instructions in v. 1?

5. Where does a sanctified life, that is pleasing to God, come from? Look through the following verses together and discuss what they add to our understanding of sanctification.
  - a. vv. 1-2:
  - b. v. 4:
  - c. v. 8:
  - d. Explore how these different aspects of sanctification work together. It might be helpful to also look at: 1 Thess. 1:3, 5; 2:13; Gal. 5:23.
  
6. In these verses, Paul addresses holy living with regards to a particular issue: sex.
  - a. How are Christians to use/not use their bodies and sexual desires?
  - b. Look through Paul's motives/reasons for living this way. Why do you think it is God's will for us to live sanctified lives?
  
7. It is God's will that each one of us should be sanctified. Where do you find yourself living in the same way as the world? How can you grow in this?

## STUDY 5

## 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 *Love Each Other*

1. How is it possible for our actions to hinder the church and the gospel?
2. Re-read 1 Thess. 4:1-2. What is Paul aiming to achieve in this part of his letter?

### READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12

3. According to vv. 9-10, what area of life is Paul addressing in these verses? How are the Thessalonians going in this area? What does Paul now want to see?
4. Compare Paul's instructions here, with his prayer of thanksgiving in 1 Thess. 1:2-3, and his prayer for the Thessalonians in 1 Thess. 3:11-13? What about our sanctification are we reminded of?
5. Paul now focuses on a specific way for the Thessalonians to love one another more.
  - a. v. 11: What is it? What is it not? See also 2 Thess. 3:6-13.

b. v. 12: How is this 'loving one another'?

c. v. 12: Why does our love for one another matter? See also John 13:34-35.

6. How do Paul's instructions here about work, help us think about the place of secular work in the Christian life?

7. Can you think of other situations where is it possible for our actions to hinder the church or gospel? Why does our sanctification matter?

## STUDY 6

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *Hope in the Lord*

1. Have you ever been to a funeral? Did you feel you had anything to help to say to those who were most affected by the person's death.

### READ 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

2. What appears to be the issue Paul is addressing in these verses?
3. Paul does not want the Thessalonians to be "uninformed about those who sleep in death" (v. 13). What do you think he means by sleep? See also: v.14, Luke 23:43, Phil 1:21-23.
4. According to v. 14, what is the Christian hope? How do we know it is certain?
5. Explore the different things that will take place when Christ returns (vv. 15-17):
  - a. What will it be like?
  - b. What will happen to those who are asleep?
  - c. What will happen to the rest of us who are in Christ?

6. Why do you think Jesus' resurrection matters? What about ours?

7. How will these words shape the way we grieve when a Christian brother or sister falls asleep? How can we help each other to grieve well? (v. 13, 18)

## STUDY 7

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *Preparing for the King*

1. What clothing do you tend to wear, when you:
  - a. head out for the day?
  - b. get home in the evening?

### READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

2. In 1 Thess. 4:13-18 Paul spoke about the hope believers have, in the return of Jesus. From vv. 1-3:

- a. When will this day come?

- b. What illustrations does Paul use to explain it's coming?

- c. 'the day of the Lord' is a common phrase from the Old Testament. Look up the following examples: Jeremiah 46:10, Ezekiel 30:2-3, Joel 1:15, Amos 5:18-20. Why do you think Paul uses this phrase here and how might it shape what follows?

3. From vv. 4-5, should the Thessalonians be worried about the day of the Lord? Why/why not?





## STUDY 8

# 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

## *A Church Preparing for the King*

1. How important are relationships within any organisation?

Before concluding his letter in vv. 23-28, Paul writes in vv. 12-22 about three different relationships within the church of the Thessalonians: 1) with their leaders; 2) with each other; 3) with God.

### READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-22

2. In vv. 12-13 Paul addresses relationships with the church leadership.

- a. According to Paul, what is Christian leadership about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. How does Paul call the Thessalonians to relate to their leaders? Why do you think this is?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. Can you think of some practical examples of what this could (or shouldn't) look like in our life together as the church of Engadine + Heathcote?

3. In vv. 14-15 Paul addresses how the Thessalonian church are to relate to each other.

- a. List out the different instructions Paul gives.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Who is responsible for doing these things?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- c. Can you think of some practical examples of what this could (or shouldn't) look like as the church of Engadine + Heathcote?

4. In vv. 16-22 Paul address how the Thessalonian church are to relate to God.
  - a. How are they to speak to God? How is this possible in their context of persecution? (vv. 16-18)
  
  - b. How are they to listen as God speaks to them? (vv. 19-22)
  
  - c. How do you think vv. 16-22 ought to shape our life together as the church of Engadine + Heathcote?

**READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-28**

5. In vv. 23-28 Paul concludes his letter with: 1) a prayer of blessing; 2) final instructions; 3) a final prayer. How is Paul's prayer in vv. 23-24 a fitting conclusion to the entire letter?