

## WEEK FORTY-FOUR INTRODUCTION

Paul is a missionary theologian. He is an apostle in the most basic sense meaning he is a “sent one.” The Apostles stand part of the foundation of the New Testament church (Eph. 2:20) and thus occupy a unique office in the history of redemption. These “A”postles stand apart as those who witnessed Jesus’ resurrection and who carry the commission of the resurrected Lord. Most of the books of Acts focuses on the commissioned missionary endeavors of the Apostle Paul. This week’s reading takes us through the latter part of Paul’s second missionary journey and into the beginning of his third. Even after his initial contact and ministry, Paul remains connected to the fledgling congregations. To continue to strengthen these new believers and churches, he would at times send others in his stead to care for and instruct the churches. Often these emissaries would carry letters from the Apostle to the churches. This week we engage with three of those letters, 1 and 2 Thessalonians and 1 Corinthians.

## KEY SCRIPTURE

*I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.*

– 1 Corinthians 2:2 CSB

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Where does Paul go in Acts 17-19? List out the locations and churches. Describe his ministry in those places. Can you identify his pattern of ministry? Where does he do something different? Why do you think that is?**

**Why did a mob form in Thessalonica according in Acts 17:5? What was the charge they brought against Paul and Silas? Could the same be said of us today? Why or why not?**

**According to Acts 17:11, what distinguished the people of Berea? What result came from this distinction?**

**How did the gospel arrive in Thessalonica according to 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5? God's power worked in the Thessalonians. What transformations can you see in this chapter that result from God's power?**

**To what does Paul devote himself in Acts 18:5? Why are these things so important to him? Do we devote ourselves to the same? Why or why not?**

**What's the problem in the Corinthian church according to 1 Corinthians 1:10-13? How does that same issue continue to plague churches? What is the solution?**

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:12. What is in your life that is "permissible" if not "beneficial"? Is there anything mastering you? What steps will you take today in response to God's word?**

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

“Flee sexual immorality! Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the person who is sexually immoral sins against his own body. Don’t you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price, so glorify God with your body.” -**1 Corinthians 6:18-20 CSB**

**We live in a society saturated with sexual immorality and sexual confusion. How will you flee sexual immorality this week? How will you live as a temple of the Holy Spirit?**