SUNGAL WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

SUNDAY SERMON

AFAITH THAT INSPIRES

1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10

PR ROBIN LIEW 4 AUG 2024



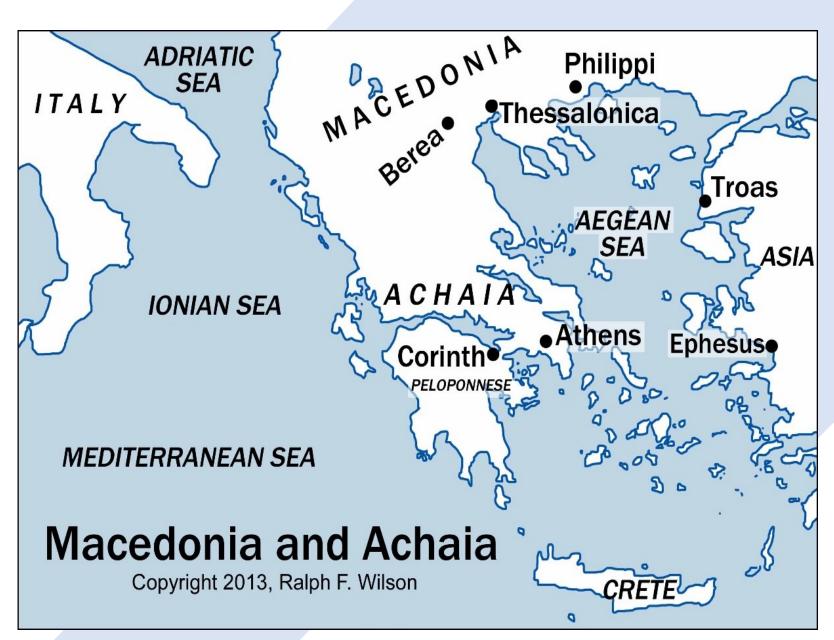
AGAINST ALL EXPECTATION

❖ The church (Ekklesia) in China

The church (Ekklesia) in Thessalonica

Acts 17:1-8

- New Believers& Community
- Persecution & Suffering



Paul gave thanks to God for the Thessalonians' faith. They survived and flourished as God's community despite suffering and persecution. Theirs was a faith that inspires.

- v.2 We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers.
- v.3 remember your work produced by faith, labour prompted by love, endurance inspired by hope in the our LORD Jesus Christ.

REASONS FOR THANKSGIVING

- 1. **EXPERIENCE** the fullness/power of the Gospel (v.5)
- 2. READINESS to imitate Christ/Paul and accept the cost of discipleship (v.5-6;

 1 Thessalonians 2:14; Hebrew 12:2)
- 3. BECOMING the message (v.7-10)

EXPERIENCE the fullness / power of the Gospel (v.5)

v.5 because our Gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.

Reference: 1 Corinthians 2:4

READINESS to imitate Christ/Paul and accept the cost of discipleship (v.5-6; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; Hebrew 12:2)

v.5 You know how we live among you.
v.6 You become <u>imitators of us and of the Lord</u>;
in spite of the severe suffering, you welcomed
the message with joy given by the Holy Spirit

For you brothers became <u>imitators</u> of God's churches in Judea which are in Christ Jesus: <u>you suffered from your own countrymen the same things</u> those churches suffered from the Jews who killed the Lord Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 2:14

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame Hebrews 12:2

BECOMING the message (v.7-10)

- v.7 You became a model to all believers
- v.8 The Lord's message rang out from you

Reflection

- What is the Gospel to you?
- How has the Gospel impacted your life?
- What or how has it cost you to follow Christ?
- Is there a fear of commitment? We cannot be hobbled by fear and indecision in following Christ.
- How can I be a testimony where God has sent me? Would you pray to ask God to help you be the 'message'.

A faith that inspires

- Experienced the power of the Gospel
- Resolved to follow Christ at all cost
- Faith embodied and lived out

