

## 1 - INTRODUCTION

### I. The Nature of the Epistles

#### A. New Testament Literature

- The New Testament is made up of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Gospels ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), Historical ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), Apocalyptic ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) and Epistles.
- Each type of book varies in \_\_\_\_\_.
- The difference in types requires approaching the book \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. The Epistles

- The epistles can be divided into two groups: \_\_\_\_\_.

#### C. Characteristics of the Epistles

- The epistles are \_\_\_\_\_.
- The epistles were intended for \_\_\_\_\_.
- The occasion of the epistle must \_\_\_\_\_.
- The epistles are not necessarily \_\_\_\_\_.

#### D. Basic Rules for the Epistles

- The text cannot mean what it never meant to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Where we share similar life situations with the first century church, God's word is \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. Birth of a Church (Acts 17:1-4)

#### A. The Journey to Thessalonica (17:1a)

- Paul and Silas journeyed through Amphipolis and Apolonia to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. Ministry in the synagogue (17:1b-4)

##### 1. Paul's custom (17:1b-2)

# Dynamics of a Healthy Church: The Letters to the Thessalonians

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- It was Paul's custom to enter the synagogue, where he preached for \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Paul's message (17:3)

- Paul showed that the Messiah had \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul showed that Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_.

## 3. The response (17:4)

- Some of the Jews and a large number of God-fearing Gentiles responded to \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. The First Epistle to the Thessalonians

#### A. The occasion for the letter

- This letter was written while Paul was in Corinth in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul wrote the Thessalonians in response to a good report that \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. The purpose of the letter

- Paul wrote the letter in order to encourage \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul uses the occasion of the letter to instruct the church concerning \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul also uses the letter to defend \_\_\_\_\_.

### IV. The Second Epistle to the Thessalonians

#### A. The occasion for the letter

- This letter was written a few months after the first while Paul was in Corinth in \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. The purpose of the letter

- Paul wrote the letter in order to answer \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul also wrote the letter to encourage the church to endure \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul also used the letter to strongly address \_\_\_\_\_.