

## **Bible Study for October 12-18**

*You are encouraged to take some time to reflect on the scripture and the questions provided either individually, or with members of your household.*

**Read:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

### **Notes:**

Over the course of the next month or so, our calendar is interrupted by several “high” Sundays, meaning that our epistle (or 2<sup>nd</sup>) readings change rather constantly. While the lectionary focuses at this time on 1 Thessalonians, Thanksgiving, Reformation, and All Saints Sundays will, from time to time, veer us away from this book.

It is most likely that this letter is the first written by Paul. In it, Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurance to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Paul himself only managed to stay in Thessalonica for a mere 3 weeks before Jews, jealous of his success, managed to get him to flee for his own safety. The congregation however, stayed firm in their commitment although, with such a short introduction to the faith, some problems had evolved, a series of misunderstandings that needed to be addressed. In spite of this, their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

### **Questions to Ponder:**

What teams did you belong to (or aspire to) as a child?

What convinced Paul that the Thessalonians were indeed chosen by God?

How did they first become imitators of, that then models for, the faith as mentioned in verses 6-10?

What does this tell you about their growth in Christ?

What kind of “Model” are you in matters of faith? Still on the drawing board? A work in progress? In a private collection? On display at a national museum?

Which of the qualities in verse 3 do you most wish to see developed in your life now?