

## Questions on the Letters to Thessalonica

1. Which of the following best describes the demographics and socio-economic significance of the city of Thessalonica?
  - a. The city had a large Jewish community with longstanding influence in the region. It also had several other significant “emigrant” communities that contributed to the cultural mix in Macedonia.
  - b. The city was the Roman capital of the province of Macedonia. Unlike other capital cities in the Roman empire, however, this one appears not to have had a large Jewish population at the time of Paul.
  - c. The city was much smaller and less influential than most of the other cities in which Paul worked. The population was almost exclusively Roman.
  
2. What brought Paul to Thessalonica?
  - a. He was recruited by the fledgling Christian community in Thessalonica to come help them organize a church.
  - b. He was sent by the church at Corinth to start an extension of that church in Macedonia, where Thessalonica was the capital.
  - c. He was fleeing from persecution at Philippi.
  
3. After leaving Thessalonica, Paul became worried about the church there. Which of the following is the first thing that Paul did about this?
  - a. He wrote a letter to the Thessalonian church and sent it from Corinth with Timothy.
  - b. He left Athens and returned to Thessalonica to visit the church.
  - c. He sent Timothy to Thessalonica while he himself went on to Corinth and waited there for Timothy’s report from Thessalonica.
  
4. Which of the following is probably *not* one of the things that Timothy reported to Paul about the church in Thessalonica?
  - a. Some of the members were arrogantly claiming to be more spiritual than other members.
  - b. Some members of the church had misunderstood Paul’s eschatology and had become worried that those members of the church who had recently died might miss the second coming of Jesus.
  - c. In general the church was doing very good work, and Paul could be proud of their success.
  
5. Which of the following best describes the *tone* of First Thessalonians?
  - a. The letter blossoms with assurance and comfort, gentle admonition and conciliation, encouragement and pastoral care.
  - b. The letter reflects significant discomfort and nervousness on Paul’s part, with serious concerns about the church’s ability to survive in light of its problems.
  - c. The tone of the letter is bellicose, reflecting significant anger toward the members of the church.

6. Which of the following best states the dominant theme of First Thessalonians?
  - a. Eschatology
  - b. Divisions within the church
  - c. The Resurrection
  
7. Most scholars think First Thessalonians was written around
  - a. 57-59 CE
  - b. 55-56 CE
  - c. 52-54 CE
  - d. 49 or 50 CE
  
8. If Paul wrote Second Thessalonians, then
  - a. he must have written it at least a year and a half after writing First Thessalonians.
  - b. he must have written it very shortly after finishing First Thessalonians.
  - c. at least five years must have passed between First and Second Thessalonians.
  
9. Second Thessalonians mentions a letter that
  - a. Timothy wrote to Paul.
  - b. Paul wrote a few months earlier.
  - c. seems to be by Paul, but really is not.
  
10. Calvin Roetzel believes that Second Thessalonians
  - a. is deutero-pauline.
  - b. was written from Rome, late in Paul's career.
  - c. was written by Paul.