1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Questions for: "An Assuring Letter Zoo A Fine Church"
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1 Why was it unlawful for Paul and Silas to be detained or arrested in Thessalonica?
It was illegal to punish a citizen of Rome without a hearing or judgment against him.

2 Why was Mt Olympus so significant at the time?
The Ancient Greeks believed that 12 gods lived permanently within Mount Olympus, known to us as the Olympus Greek gods

3 What is Monotheism, I do we practice this today?
I hope we do as it is the belief in the existence of one God, The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

4 Why did Paul write this letter? **3 reasons:**
1 He wanted them to know his love and concern for them.
2 And for them to understand the doctrines and the 2nd coming of christ.
3 He also wanted them to live holy lives in the mist of an unholy culture.

Much like todays culture, we see the worship of the gods of the flesh, Last of the eyes, lust of the mind and the boastful pride of life.
We see people being penalized for doing that which is good and being supported and approved for doing that which is evil.

The Bible tells us in:
Isaiah 5:20
Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/ISA.5.20

Our freedoms are eroding
What has happen to freedom of speech?
What has happen to Civil Discourse?

Lets Read 1 Thessalonians
I Thessalonians 1:1-10

The Letter
1 Thessalonians 1:1 The Greeting
1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10 Thanksgiving
2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,
3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,
4 knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.
5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.
6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,
7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.
8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.
9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,
10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1TH.1.1-10

1 Thessalonians 1:3 Nine reasons for their Thanksgiving
(Paul, Silas and Timothy)

1 They were thankful for their **Faith**, **Love** and **Patient hope**.

Faith:
Hebrews 11:6
But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/HEB.11.6

Love:
I Corinthians 13:13
And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1CO.13.13

Hope:

Romans 8:25
But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/ROM.8.25
I Peter 1:13
Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1PE.1.13
I Peter 3:15
But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/1PE.3.15

1 Thessalonians 1:4
2 They were thankful for the Thessalonians church because they'd been chosen by God.
Ephesians 1:4
just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/EPH.1.4

3 They were thankful that the powerful gospel was delivered by Godly, Faithful men and by the power of the Holy Spirit.
(These men empowered by the Holy Spirit were great examples of what it means to really live the Christian life.)

4 They were thankful that they had be come assured of the truth of the Gospel.
(The promise attached to believing the Gospel.)
Assurance that you have received eternal life comes from the word.

5 They were thankful that they became followers of Christ (Disciples)
and of the apostles (Christ's Representatives)

6 They were thankful that although they received the Word of God in much affliction, they had deep joy.
Matthew 5:10-12
10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.
12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/MAT.5.10-12

7 They were thankful that through this faithful bunch of believers, the Word of God went out to all places: so much so, that the apostles didn't need to evangelize those areas, as it had already happened.This is God's Plan.
Ephesians 4:11
And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,
https://my.bible.com/bible/114/EPH.4.11

8 They were thankful that they had turned to the true and living God and repented of their former idol worship.
These gods promised worldly pleasures , lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, boastful pride of life.
(Money, Sex, Power, Possession…)

What is Lust anyway:
A misguided thirst for satisfaction that only God can fulfill.
***That's why The Rolling Stones said "I can get no Satisfaction"**

"What has been enticing and luring your eyes and heart away? What things in this world are you longing for as your next source of fulfillment? Can you admit you don't need them?

Are you tired of being lied to by lust? Are you fed up with believing that forbidden pleasures are able to keep you happy and content—when you know they can't?

Then begin setting your heart back on God and partake of the feast of His Word. Let His promises of peace and freedom work their way into your heart. Confess any lust in your heart as sin, and allow the guilt and shame that weighs on you to be replaced by the joy of His forgiveness.

Daily receive the unconditional love He has already proven to you through the cross. Focus on being grateful for everything God has already given you rather than choosing discontentment."

9 They were thankful that they were waiting for the 2nd coming of Christ, and made Jesus their greatest hope.
How is Jesus described here?
He is God's Son
He is God's Son who is now in Heaven
He is God's Son who was risen from the dead.
He is God's Son who is our deliverer, who delivers us from the wrath to come (Through the Gospel).

We must always remember Grace and Peace
God gives us Grace (The grace of God) which gives us (The peace of God).
So what is the grace of God? **His undeserved favor**
What is the peace of God? A sense of calm and well being.