



# **The Joy of Sharing**

**1 Thessalonians 1-2**

# Thessalonica

Many believe it to be his earliest Epistle and the oldest book in the New Testament around A.D. 52-53.

Thessalonica was a major port city and trade center on the Aegean Sea.



**Thessaloniki:**  
The city was named in honor of Thessalonica, sister of Alexander the Great and wife of the Greek military leader Cassander.

# Paul's Epistles



Thessalonica

The church had its beginnings during Paul's second missionary journey soon after leaving Philippi.

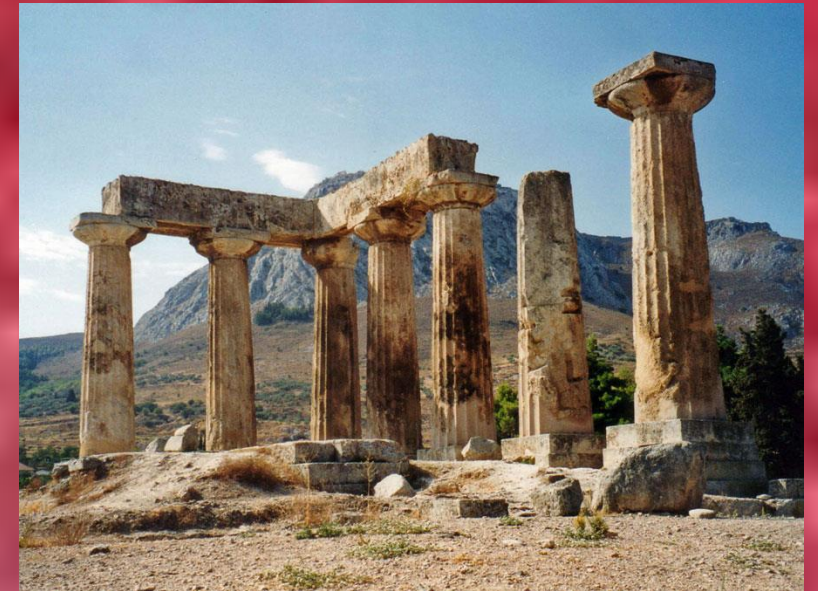
He had 3 successful Sabbath Days preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Jewish synagogues. However, some unbelievers gathered a hostile crowd.

Concerned for the Saints safety Paul and other companions left. Later he sent Timothy back to strengthen the young church.

Paul wrote the letter from Corinth.



Philippi



Corinth

# The Saints in Thessalonica

The Saints in Thessalonica were some of the earliest European converts to the Church.

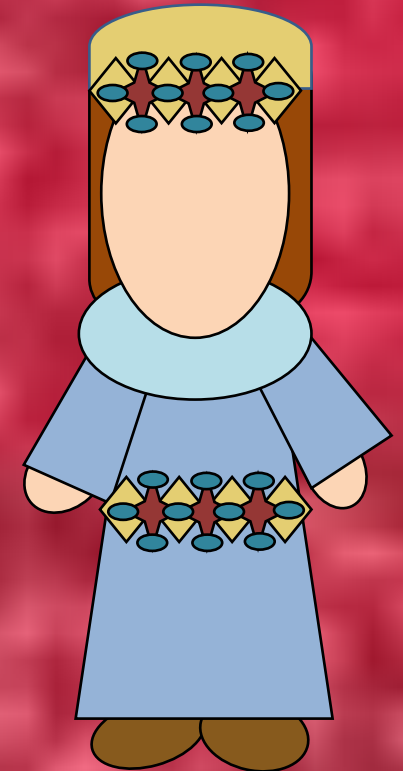
Paul, Silas, and Timothy had first preached there during Paul's second missionary journey but were driven out of the city by some of the Jewish leaders.

The Thessalonian Saints continued to be persecuted even after Paul and his companions left.

Paul later wrote his epistle to the Saints to encourage them as they faced persecution.

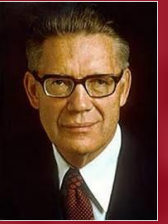


*Silvanus = Silas*



*Timotheus = Timothy*

# Preaching With Power



**“The true gospel consists of two things:**

**The Word, and The Power.**

**Anyone can have the word; the books in which it is written are universally available.**

**But the power must come from God; it is and must be dispensed according to his mind and his will to those who abide the law entitling them to receive it.**

**“The word of the gospel is the spoken or written account of what men must do to be saved. ...**



**“But actual salvation comes only when the power of God is received and used; and this power is the power of the priesthood and the power of the Holy Ghost.” (2)**

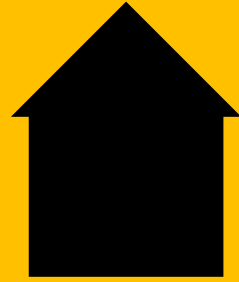
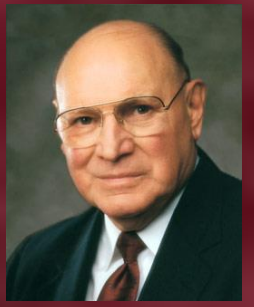
# Following and Sharing

As we teach the gospel of Jesus Christ by the word and power of God, we can help others become followers of the Lord and His servants.

**“And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:”—  
1 Thessalonians 1:6**



We can share the gospel through our example



**“Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who hath been warned to warn his neighbor.”—  
D&C 88:81**

**...[Paul] noted what must have been their crowning achievement—that they were inspiring examples to all their neighbors and that from them the word of the Lord had extended to others everywhere, far beyond their boundaries.**

**Paul paid tribute to them when he told them that wherever he traveled, he found people telling him about their remarkable good works and faith in God.” (3)**



**“The most effective way to preach the gospel is through example.**

**If we live according to our beliefs, people will notice.**

**If the countenance of Jesus Christ shines in our lives.**

**If we are joyful and at peace with the world, people will want to know why. (4)**

**Others need to see you being an example, a representative of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.**







**“The blessings you receive because of your goodness affect not only your lives but also... lives of countless others in profound but often unknown ways.”**





“Those who receive the gospel are expected to manifest its fruits in their lives, not only for their own benefit and blessing, but for the purpose of drawing others to the truth. ...

“... In significant ways their lives will manifest the fruits of the gospel and set them apart as a beacon to all who are seeking for light and truth” (6)

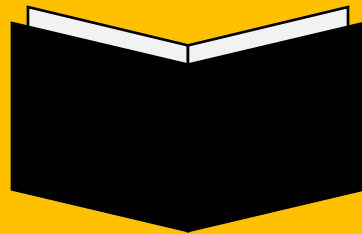


## **Mormon Example:**

**In dress--modestly  
In manner—politeness, courteous  
In character—honesty, trustworthy  
In convictions—honoring priesthood,  
obeying the Sabbath,  
living the covenants, and  
being not ashamed  
to be a member of  
the LDS Church.**

**“For I am not ashamed of  
the gospel of Christ: for it  
is the power of God unto  
salvation to every one  
that believeth.”**

**Romans 1:16**



**“Ye are  
witnesses, and  
God also...”**



**True ministers live and  
teach the gospel in  
righteousness  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-10**



As of 2009:  
The Church has over 50,000 full-time missionaries serving around the world.

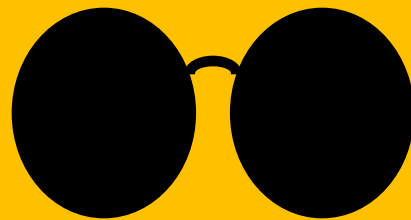
Unfortunately most of our full-time missionaries spend more of their time trying to find people rather than teaching them.

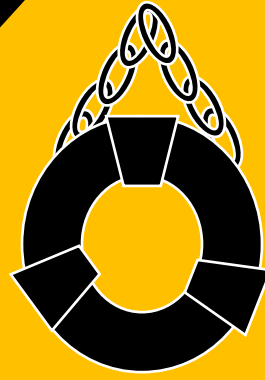
I view our full-time missionaries as an underutilized teaching resource.

If you and I did more of the finding for the full-time missionaries and freed them up to spend more time teaching the people we find, great things would begin to happen.

We're missing a golden opportunity to grow the Church when we wait for our full-time missionaries to warn our neighbors instead of doing it ourselves. (7)

**“Remember the worth of  
souls is great in the sight  
of God;”  
--D&C 18-10**





**“...and bring, save it be  
one soul unto me, how  
great shall be your joy  
with him in the kingdom  
of my Father.”  
--D&C 18:16**

Missionaries will continue to do the best they can, but wouldn't it be better if you and I stepped up to do a job that is rightfully ours? (7)



# Every Member a Missionary

The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-Day Saints

Brother \_\_\_\_\_

The Church of Jesus Christ  
of Latter-Day Saints

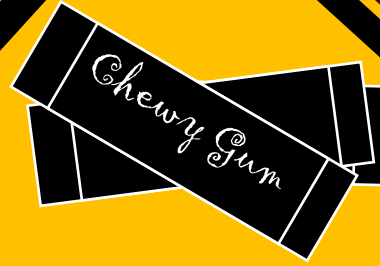
Sister \_\_\_\_\_



**“...Go ye into the  
all the world, and  
preach the gospel  
to every creature.”  
--Mark 16:15**







**Besides Missionaries who  
receive glory and have joy in  
those they teach and convert,  
so can we as neighbors  
(friends) have joy in sharing  
the Gospel of Christ.**

**1 Thessalonians 2:11-20**

Sources:

Suggested Hymn: #263 *Go Forth With Faith*

Video:

Reach Out with Love (8:32)



1. New Testament Institute Student Manual Chapter 45
2. Elder Bruce R. McConkie (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. [1965–73], 3:42–43).
3. Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin (“There Am I in the Midst of Them,” *Ensign*, May 1976, 56–57).
4. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf (“Waiting on the Road to Damascus,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2011, 77).
5. Ann M. Dibb “I know it. I live it. I Love it” 2010 October General Conference
6. Elder Dean L. Larsen (in Conference Report, Oct. 1985, 85; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 68).
7. Elder L. Tom Perry “Bring Souls unto Me” April 2009 Gen. Conf.

THE FIRST AND SECOND LETTERS OF PAUL TO THE SAINTS AT THESSALONICA, CA. A.D. 52–53  
 WRITTEN FROM CORINTH DURING PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY (1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS)

Gospel Comes in Word and Power	1:1–10
Paul's Example in Thessalonica	2:1–12
Faith and Patience of the Converts	2:13–20

Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles Chapter 33

**About the Red Background for the slides January 23, 2017:**

Thanks to a snafu during wet conditions, Skittles slid off a delivery truck and spilled all over the highway, where the Dodge County Sheriff's Office came upon them and understandably felt perplexed. (Partly because all of them were the red color and had started to "disintegrate in the rain.") The office later learned they were "intended to be feed for cattle," confusing even more people. Now candy giant Mars says that it's "investigating" why, exactly.

A representative for Mars tells the AP this situation — cows being fed candy — actually happens a lot. Producers will buy unused candies, then "incorporate" them with other materials to make feed. The mystery is why *this* giant box, since the Skittles in question weren't authorized for that purpose. "We don't know how it ended up as it did," the representative says, "and we are investigating." She adds these candies in particular were defective and should've been destroyed, but the only thing "defective" about them was improper branding. "There's no little 'S' on them," as the local sheriff, Dale Schmidt, explained to WISN. He says the "distinct Skittles smell" was a dead giveaway, though. He's also using this time in the limelight to crack bad jokes: He wrote on Facebook that since only the red were involved, it was "difficult to 'Taste the Rainbow' in its entirety," and that in the end, "these Skittles are actually for the Birds" (*ba-dum chssh!*). By Clint Rainey

**Just for Fun:  
 Something of Interest**

Theslonike; Thessaloniki:  
 An interesting Greek legend is the story of Alexander the Great's younger sister, Thesslonike. When Alexander came home from one of his conquests, he brought water from the Fountain of Immortality which he used to wash his sister's hair. When Alexander died, Thesslonike was so filled with grief that she attempted to end her life by jumping off of a cliff into the ocean. Instead of drowning, she was transformed into a mermaid. According to the legend, sailors in the Aegean Sea were approached by Thesslonike who asked "Is Alexander was still alive?" If they said "yes," all was well and they could sail on. If they answered "no," she transformed into a sea monster, killed the sailors, and sank the ship.



Skittles