

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Acts 17:1-9 for a further explanation of the "affliction" referred to in 1 Thessalonians 1:6. What is different about a decision to follow Christ that brings with it "much affliction"? How might that difference impact daily life?

Is there a conflict in receiving the word in much affliction and with joy? How do we experience affliction and joy at the same time?

What did the Thessalonians do that caused the word to "sound forth" and allow them to be examples?

How does this passage illustrate the significance of the way we live our lives and the credibility of the Gospel? What is the relationship?

What are the specific things the Thessalonians did? Are we doing those things? What might those things look like if we were to do them today? Can we credibly claim the same impact that the Thessalonian believers had?

Is there a theme expressed in the lives of these believers that is consistent with exemplary believers throughout the Old and New Testaments? (Hint: Hebrews 11:13-16). How is that relevant for us today?