

**READING THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2021 Week 10 (March 8-12)**

*("Let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly" ... and bear fruit in our lives) – Colossians 3:16.*

**Historical Context** (Paul's second missionary trip).

**51- 53 AD** Paul stayed in Corinth for 1 ½ years. Both letters to the Thessalonians are believed to have been written during this time from Corinth. This is because Silas' (Silvanus') name is on both letters, and Silas disappears from the travels of Paul when Paul leaves Corinth. Thessalonika was named after Alexander the Great's half-sister Thessloniki:

<b>Day</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Clarification from the Greek (the original language)</b>
Mon.	I Thessalonians 2 (:12)	<b>Worthy</b> = <u>axioos</u> (Greek) – noun used adverbially. "Of like value." The idea comes from weighing things on a scale.
Tues.	I Thessalonians 3 (:3)	<b>Unsettled</b> = "be drawn aside / cajoled / beguiled / allured."
Wed.	I Thessalonians 4 (:3)	<b>Sexual Immorality</b> = "porneias" = literally, "of a female prostitute." "Porneia" was the word for a woman enslaved and prostituted. These non-consent relationships were both sanctioned and taxed by the government. At the same time, free women having sex outside of marriage was frowned upon; and adultery was illegal. Thessalonika had a temple dedicated to Aphrodite. If it was like the temple dedicated to Aphrodite ("Venus" for the Romans) in Athens, then it, alone may have had 1,000 prostitutes. The Greek god, Dionysus, was also worshiped in Thessalonika. Associated with the harvest and fertility: worship often culminated with orgies. This god was so important, that one of the three main tribes that comprised the inhabitants of city was named "Dionysias." "Of a prostitute" targets the customer – the one driving the business.
Thur.	I Thessalonians 5 (:8)	<b>Hope</b> = In classical Greek, it is the expectation of future events of all kinds – both good and bad. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the word is used to describe longing for / waiting for / trusting for an expected good event.
Fri.	II Thessalonians 1 (:11)	<b>Count</b> = <u>axioosthae</u> (Greek) – subjunctive verb which means it's possible / may happen). It is built off of the same root word "worthy". It is good to realize that translations often use different words to try and capture the essence of the usage of a single Greek word idea (like, "do", "did", and "done").

Sources: [www.thebiblejourney.org](http://www.thebiblejourney.org); [Analytical Greek New Testament](#); [Basics of Biblical Greek](#); [Dictionary of New Testament Theology](#), Vols. 1-3; [The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament](#); [The Analytical Greek Lexicon Revised](#); [The Interlinear NIV](#); [archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2010/05/archaic-greek-temple-of-aphrodite-in.html](http://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2010/05/archaic-greek-temple-of-aphrodite-in.html); [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prostitution\\_in\\_ancient\\_Greece](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prostitution_in_ancient_Greece); and [www.thecollector.com/prostitution-ancient-greece-rome/](http://www.thecollector.com/prostitution-ancient-greece-rome/).

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