



## **Heartbeats along the way: The God-directed Heart**

*"May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ."  
2nd Thessalonians 3:5*

I imagine the believers at Thessalonica held a very special place in Paul's heart. He and Silas spent three weeks there arguing for the Gospel, basing it on the Hebrew scriptures. Eventually, some Jewish citizens became jealous, stirred up a mob and sought out Paul and Silas to harm them. Not finding them, the mob attacked some of the believers, hauled them before the authorities, charging them with acts contrary to the decrees of the emperor. But the believers sent the two missionaries to another nearby town.

Now Paul was used to this sort of reaction, but I believe it was the courage of these brand-new believers that led him to write two letters to them, and send Timothy back to complete their understanding of the Gospel and to report to Paul how this young church was doing.

You can read, and should read aloud, the enthusiasm and joy Paul shows for these faithful Thessalonians. In fact, take time over these next two weeks to read (aloud) a chapter of 1 & 2 Thessalonians daily. I believe it will stir your hearts as it must have the first readers and hearers of Paul's epistles.

Imagine such a letter addressed to us at 333 S. Baltimore St. Some of the phrases will be familiar to you: respect those who labor among you; be at peace among yourselves; seek ways to good to one another; Rejoice always; pray without ceasing, give thanks in ALL circumstances; test everything and hold fast to GOOD.

We are the inheritors of these words to the Thessalonian Christians. Let's strive to let God direct our hearts to the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ as we journey to our new house of worship.

*"Almighty and Merciful God, Let us celebrate that Your Holy Spirit is with us in all things, directing us on our journey. May we be worthy of the inspiration and response of the Thessalonian Church as we build for Your kingdom in Carlisle. "*

~ cl reynolds