

CHAPTER 31.1  
*Faith Life*

“THE WORD: OUR RESPONSE  
MATTERS”  
Acts 17:1-15  
September 17, 2017

A question of authority: God’s Word or yours.

I. The Word made clear. (1-3)

A. Communicating the Word. (3)

B. Gospel Essentials (4)

1. Suffering/Death of the Savior

2. Rise from the dead.

C. One Messiah -> Jesus

II. Response in Thessalonica (4-9)

A. Joined (4)

B. Jealous (5-9)

III. Response in Berea (10-15)

A. Primacy of the Word (11-12)

1. Receive eagerly

2. Examine daily

3. Believed

B. Priority of their own words. (13)

**How does this apply to me?**

## **NEXT WEEK**

“LIVING FAITH”  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

### **Historical Timeline:**

After Paul was whisked out of Thessalonica by the believers there, he made his way south into Greece, travelling through Berea and Athens before settling in Corinth for a protracted stay. Having received a report from Timothy, who had returned to Thessalonica at Paul’s request (1Thess 3:1-3), that the church there was doing well, Paul wrote to them, addressing some truths that he had not had time to fully teach before he had had to leave so abruptly.

### **Passage Overview:**

The faith of the Thessalonian believers was clear, real and strong. Birthed out of persecution, their faith was growing and working. It was a vibrant, living faith.

The testimony of this church had spread far and wide in a very short period of time. The news had spread quickly of how they had dramatically turned from idols, which were so predominant in every city of the day, to both believe and serve the Lord.

Their vision was not limited in space and time to their own small worlds. Instead, their witness of hope in Christ had reverberated to distant peoples. They lived in the anticipation of Jesus’ return. Yet their understanding concerning the return of Christ was spotty. Some of the Christians in Thessalonica had already died since Paul left, and there was concern about where they were and whether they would miss out on the blessings of Jesus’ return. Paul writes to them to encourage them with hope, and to instruct them concerning the second coming of the Savior.

**Reading for Next Week:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10