

### Thessalonica

- A port city, 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in Greece
- Population in 1<sup>st</sup> century = 20,000 (today = 300,000)
- Large number of "fishermen, sailors, merchants...etc." hard-working, tough-minded
- Influential to surrounding area through commerce, trade, leaders...etc.
- Almost all the food and supplies for Macedonia passed through the port of Thessalonica

### Acts 17:1-4

1 When they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. 2 As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that the Christ had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ," he said. 4 Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and not a few prominent women.

- *reasoned* = an exchange of thoughts for deeper understanding
- *explaining & proving* = to open up completely, to bring forward the evidence
- *proclaiming* = to decisively announce

"Truth doesn't change according to my ability to stomach it emotionally." – Flannery O'Connor

"Read Jesus and tell me he isn't worth following. Look at Christ and dare to say his way of life is not worth giving up everything to follow. I'm slowly beginning to believe that it isn't true Christianity that so many people are rejecting—although some are. More often, they are just doubting those things that could never bring them life." – A.J. Swoboda

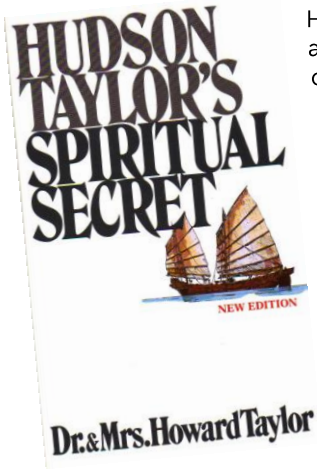


Are the roots of my understanding of the Scriptures going deep enough?

Is my discipleship strong enough to thoughtfully engage the cultural realities of our day through a Christ-centered worldview?

As a parent, am I entering into the conversations with my children in a way that is helping them process the times in which we're living?

Am I committed to stand firm on what God has made clear we need to stand firm on, no matter the "cancel culture" narrative all around us?



Hudson Taylor left a comfortable life in England at the age of 21 to sail across the seas to China as it was opening to the Gospel.

He founded the China Inland Mission, and spent the next 51 years there, taking his last breaths there.

He penned these words near the end of his life...

**Tonight Shanghai is burning**

**And I am dying too.**

**But there's no death more certain**

**Than death inside of you.**

**Some men die of shrapnel**

**While some go down in flames.**

**But most men die inch by inch**

**While playing at little games.**

**- Hudson Taylor (1832-1905)**