

they represented “all the churches of Christ” from which greetings are sent to the Roman Christians in Rom 16:16). They did indeed sail from Cenchreae, but Paul, learning of a plot against his life, changed his traveling plans, went north to Macedonia by land, and took ship from the port of Philippi to Alexandria Troas, where he found his fellow-travelers awaiting him. At Philippi he was rejoined by the author of the “we” narrative, who journeyed to Jerusalem with him (Acts 20:5–6). This brief and unplanned visit to Philippi (on which he no doubt passed through Thessalonica) was the last occasion spent by Paul on Macedonian soil. But the churches of Macedonia never forgot him, and his apostolic achievement in the province has endured in vigor to the present day.

III The Thessalonian Letters

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I. Authorship of 1 Thessalonians

Two letters addressed to “the church of the Thessalonians” have been preserved for us in the New Testament canon. They are included in the *corpus Paulinum*, but in fact each of them is superscribed in the names of “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy.” Both Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy (at least by inference) appear in the record of Acts as Paul’s companions during his first visit to Thessalonica (Acts 17:1–9). For a short time after Paul’s departure from