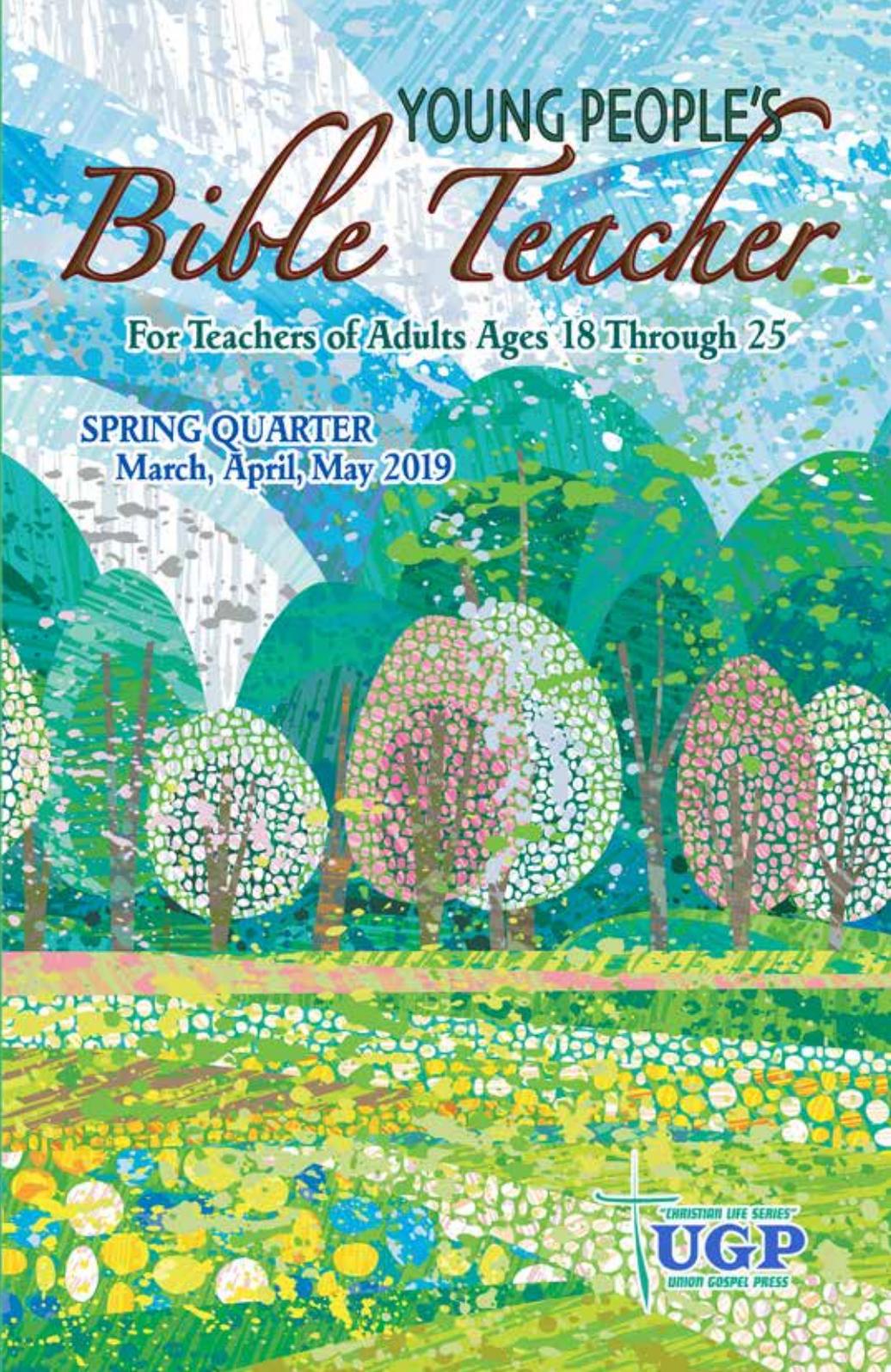


YOUNG PEOPLE'S *Bible Teacher*

For Teachers of Adults Ages 18 Through 25

SPRING QUARTER
March, April, May 2019



CHRISTIAN LIFE SERIES
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Young People's Bible Teacher

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Scripture Lesson Text

1 THESS. 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

NOTES

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A New Loyalty

Lesson Text: I Thessalonians 1:1-10

Related Scriptures: Acts 17:1-4; Romans 6:17-23;
I Corinthians 2:1-5; Ephesians 2:1-13

TIME: A.D. 51

PLACE: from Corinth

GOLDEN TEXT—“They themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God” (I Thessalonians 1:9).

Lesson Exposition

The Apostle Paul's first letter to the believers in Thessalonica (modern Thessaloniki, or more familiarly, Salonika) was written to a church that resided in one of the important cities of the Roman Empire. Thessalonica was the provincial capital of Macedonia, in Greece. It was located in the northwest corner of the gulf that encloses the Aegean Sea. The important Roman road, the Via Egnatia, passed through the city, connecting Byzantium (Constantinople) in the east with Dyrrachium (present-day Durres in Albania) in the west. Thessalonica was thus an important center for trade both by land and sea.

The ancient name of the city was Therma. Cassander of Macedon, one of Alexander the Great's generals, resettled the city in 315 B.C. and renamed it after his wife, the half-sister of Alexander. In Paul's time, Thessalonica was a free city, meaning it was ruled by city officials called politarchs (“rulers” in Acts 17:6), who were elected by the citizenry rather than by an appointed Roman governor.

Paul and his companions had founded the church in Thessalonica on his

second missionary journey and had faced persecution there. Paul's letter to the Thessalonian believers is one of his first, written around A.D. 51. He wrote the epistle from Corinth in conjunction with Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy (vs. 1). His purpose in writing was to correct certain misconceptions that had arisen among the Thessalonian believers concerning the second coming of Christ as well as to address issues of godly living and idleness (chap. 4).

PAUL'S GREETING—I Thess. 1:1

As became customary in a number of his epistles, Paul opens by offering grace and peace from God to the recipients of the letter. Particularly in the Thessalonians' case, the apostle wanted to reassure them that they could have the peace of God even as they struggled with certain issues that were troubling them at the time.

It is interesting that in the use of the words “grace” and “peace,” Paul is combining a Greek greeting with a Hebrew one. “Grace” (*charis*) is used instead of the typical Greek greeting *charein* (“Greetings”), and “peace” rep-