

Worksheet 1: Overview of 1 & 2 Thessalonians

Background: You may want to consult a study Bible or Bible dictionary for help with these questions.

1. Consult Acts 17:1–10 and 1 Thess. 1:9. What do we learn from these texts about the people, situation, and background of the church in Thessalonica?

2. What do we learn from 1 Thess. 3:1–10 about the chain of events that prompted this letter?

Major Themes: Based on a quick read of the text, try to draw some preliminary conclusions about the message and emphasis of this book.

3. Read through 1 Thessalonians and list the specific needs of the church that Paul addresses.

4. Read through 2 Thessalonians and list the specific needs of the church that Paul addresses.

5. Based on your reading of both letters, what are some major theological themes that you noticed?

Personal Response: Reflect on the opportunity to study this book with your Sunday School class.

6. What topics from the text are you excited about discussing together?

7. What are some of your favorite verses or passages in these books?

8. What questions do you have about these books?

Outlines¹

1 Thessalonians

- I. INTRODUCTION (1:1)
- II. EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS AND LOVE FOR THE THESSALONIANS (1:2–3:13)
 - A. First Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians (1:2–10)
 - B. Paul's Relationship with the Thessalonians During His Visit Demonstrating the Purity of His Motives for the Thessalonian Ministry (2:1–12)
 - C. Second Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians (2:13–16)
 - D. Paul's Relationship with the Thessalonians After His Departure (2:17–3:10)
 - E. Third Prayer of Thanksgiving Introducing the Three Major Topics of the Next Section: Personal Holiness, Christian Love, and the Second Coming (3:11–13)
- III. EXHORTATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS (4:1–5:22)
 - A. Introduction to Exhortations (4:1–2)
 - B. Exhortation to Personal Holiness and Sexual Purity (4:3–8)
 - C. Exhortation to Christian Love and Responsible Living (4:9–12)
 - D. Instructions about the Second Coming (4:13–18)
 - E. Exhortations Related to the Second Coming (5:1–11)
 - F. General Exhortations (5:12–22)
- IV. CONCLUSION (5:23–28)

2 Thessalonians

- I. INTRODUCTION (1:1–12)
- II. THESIS STATEMENT: THE DAY OF THE LORD HAS NOT OCCURRED AND TRUE BELIEVERS NEED NOT FEAR IT (2:1–2)
- III. PROOFS SUPPORTING PAUL'S THESIS (2:3–19)
 - A. First Proof: Day of the Lord Has Not Occurred (2:3–12)
 - B. Second Proof: Christians Can Have Hope and Confidence as They Anticipate the End Time (2:13–17)
- IV. EXHORTATIONS (3:1–15)
 - A. Exhortation to Pray (3:1–5)
 - B. Exhortations Related to the Idle (3:6–15)
- V. CONCLUSION (3:16–18)

Schedule for Bible Study

May 24	Overview of Thessalonians
May 31	1 Thess. 1:1–10
Jun 7	1 Thess. 2:1–16
Jun 14	1 Thess. 2:17–3:13
Jun 21	1 Thess. 4:1–12
Jun 28	1 Thess. 4:13–5:11
Jul 5	1 Thess. 5:12–28
Jul 12	2 Thess. 1:1–12
Jul 19	2 Thess. 2:1–17
Jul 26	2 Thess. 3:1–18
Aug 2	Overview of Pastoral Epistles
Aug 9	1 Tim. 1:1–11
Aug 16	1 Tim. 1:12–20
Aug 23	1 Tim. 2:1–15
Aug 30	1 Tim. 3:1–16
Sep 6	1 Tim. 4:1–16
Sep 13	1 Tim. 5:1–16
Sep 20	1 Tim. 5:17–25
Sep 27	1 Tim. 6:1–21
Oct 4	2 Tim. 1:1–18
Oct 11	2 Tim. 2:1–13
Oct 18	2 Tim. 2:14–26
Oct 25	2 Tim. 3:1–17
Nov 1	2 Tim. 4:1–22
Nov 8	Titus 1:1–16
Nov 15	Titus 2:1–15
Nov 22	Titus 3:1–15
Nov 29	Teacher's Choice

¹ Andreas J. Köstenberger, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, The Cross, and The Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament* (Nashville, Tenn: B & H Academic, 2009), 447–448.