

# 1 Thessalonians

<div> <div></div> <div>Background</div> </div>	<p>Thessalonica was a church in southern Macedonia near a seaport, it was an important communication and trade center, it was the largest city, and the capital. The audience was largely gentile (greek) with some jews in the mix too. Paul had previously left abruptly after a brief stay to preach to them there (they were chased out by some jewish groups in the area) Recent converts were left with very little external support in the midst of persecution. Paul's purpose was to praise them and encourage them for their continued faith and perseverance. Messages 1) Encouragement 2) Instructions for Godly living 3) Give assurance concerning the future of believers who die before Christ returns. The beginning of the church in Thessalonica was established by Paul, Silas, and Timothy during Paul's second missionary journey. This can be found in Acts 17: 2- 15 - Paul found a Jewish synagogue and preached there for three days. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of God-fearing greeks and quite a few prominent women. - However, other jews were jealous, and they formed a mob and started rioting. They claimed that Paul was defying Caesar's decrees and saying that there is another king named Jesus. The believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea</p>
<div> <div></div> <div>Date</div> </div>	51 AD
<div> <div></div> <div>Tags</div> </div>	

## ▼ Chapter 1 (Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith)

1: 1 - 3

- Paul opens by stating that he and others are continually praying for them. They remember them before God because of their 1) Work produced by faith 2) Labor prompted by love and 3) endurance inspired by hope in Christ Jesus

1: 4 - 10

- Paul says that the God chose them as part of His plan because the gospel came to them not just through words, but with power, the Holy Spirit, and deep conviction.
- He tells them that they became imitators of him and the Lord, because they welcome the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.
- In doing so, they became a model to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia. Their faith has also become known by many people everywhere, not just in that region.
- They turned from idols and worshipped the one true God, and to wait on Jesus, who was raised from the dead and who rescues us from the coming wrath.

#### ▼ Chapter 2 (Paul's Ministry to Thessalonica)

##### 2: 1 - 7

- Paul tells them that their visit to them was not without results, Paul had been treated outrageously in Philippi, but they dared to continue to tell the gospel in the face of strong opposition.
- Paul says that they (Paul and company) have been approved by God and entrusted to preach the Gospel.
- He is not trying to please people, but God, who tests our hearts. They were not trying to win praise from anyone, but instead were like young children among the Thessalonians.

##### 2: 8 - 12

- Paul says that they were filled with joy to care for them and to love them, and share the gospel with them, as well as their lives with them.
- **IMPORTANT** - Paul reminds them that he and his companions toiled and worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while they preached the gospel of God to you. They are witnesses to how Paul and others were holy, upright and blameless.
  - The Greeks despised manual labor and saw it fit only for slaves, so for people to work hard despite the societal norm to avoid hard labor, they

were changing a lot, and humbling themselves in society.

- He says that he treated them as a father treats his beloved children, encouraging, comforting, and urging them to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

2: 13 - 20

- Paul thanks the Lord continuously because they accepted their words not as human words, but as they actually are, words from God, which is indeed at work in those who believe.
- He says they became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus; they suffer the same from their own people, the same sufferings those churches suffered from the Jews in Judea, who killed Jesus, the prophets, and drove the apostles out. The Jews are hostile to everyone in an effort from keeping them from speaking to the gentiles so that they might be saved. They are heaping up their sins to the limit, the wrath of God has come upon them at last.
- However, Paul longs intensely to see them in person again. They wanted to come and visit but were blocked by Satan. He says that the Thessalonians are his hope and joy.

### ▼ Chapter 3 (Timothy and his report)

3: 1 - 5

- Paul, Silas, and Timothy were in Athens, and decided to send Timothy to strengthen and encourage the Thessalonians in their faith so that no one would be unsettled by the trials of suffering they were undergoing.
- Paul reminds them that they should know that by being a follower of Christ, they are destined and likely to undergo suffering and trials.
- Paul says that he couldn't stand not knowing how his fellow believers in Thessalonica were doing, and sent to inquire about their faith through Timothy, because he was worried that the tempter (Satan) has tempted them and brought their faith down.

3: 6 - 13

- Timothy brought good news about their faith. He told Paul that the Thessalonians have very pleasant memories of Paul and his company, and that they too long to see Paul again.
- Paul, even though suffering, in distress under persecution is encouraged by their faith. He says that they continue to really live since they are standing firm in their faith. Paul prays night and day that he would see them again and supply anything lacking in their faith (answer questions and concerns they may have).
- He asks the Lord to make clear the way for him to visit them, that the Lord would make their love increase, and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as Paul's love for them increases. He asks the Lord to strengthen their hearts so that they will be blameless and holy in the presence of God when Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

#### ▼ Chapter 4 (Living to Please God)

##### 4: 1 - 2 (Reminder about instructions for Godly living)

- Paul reminds them of the instructions he provided to them by the authority of Jesus.

##### 4: 3 - 8 (Abstain from sexual sin that is considered normal in their culture)

- Paul states that it is God's will that they should be sanctified. That they should avoid sexual immorality, that they should control their own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not like the pagans do with passionate lust. No one should take advantage of a brother or sister in Christ in this matter.
  - Sexual sin, homosexuality, and prostitution was legal and even state run in Greece, so it was a cultural hive for these things that Paul is speaking against.
- God has called us to live a holy life, not impure. Rejecting this instruction not only rejects a human being, but God, the very One who gives you His Holy Spirit.

##### 4: 9 - 12 (Work hard and live a quiet life)

- Paul says that they do not need to write them about love for one another, for they have already been taught by God to love each other. And that they do love all of God's family in Macedonia, but to continue to do so more and more.
- They should make it their ambition to lead a quiet life. You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

#### 4: 13 - 18 (Believers who have died)

- Believers sleep in death, and will be resurrected with Christ
- Those who are alive at the coming of Christ will not precede those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.
- The Lord will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and there we will be forever.

### ▼ Chapter 5 (The day of the Lord)

#### 5: 1 - 11

- Paul says that the date and times they need not write about, for they know that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, when people are saying "peace and safety", destruction will come upon them.
- Paul encourages them to live in the light, for they are not in the darkness anymore. They should be like those who are awake and sober, putting on faith, and love as a breastplate, hope of salvation as a helmet.
  - Paul uses the concept of virtues as being an armor in [[Romans 13: 12]], [[2 Corinthians 6: 7]], and [[Ephesians 6: 13 - 17]]. The virtue

and armor is not consistent, but it's a general message that these qualities from the Spirit will protect you.

- God did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.
- Continue to encourage each other and build each other up with these words.

#### 5: 12 - 28 (Final Instructions)

- Paul commands them to acknowledge those who work hard among them, who care for them in the name of the Lord and admonish (warn, urge) them. Hold them in highest regard because of their work.
- Live in peace with each other.
- Warn those who are idle and disruptive.
- Encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.
- Don't repay wrong for wrong, but strive to do good for each other and for everyone else.
- Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in ALL circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- Do not quench the Spirit, do not treat prophecies with contempt, but test them all. Hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.
  - Paul is saying to not look down on or treat with contempt the gifts of the Spirit that may be taking place in worship and the community.
- May God, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.
- Read this letter to all the brothers and sisters.