



N.T. Survey

1 Thessalonians

Theme: The Model Church

Outline: I. Personal Experience with Paul
II. Practical Exhortation

1-3
4-5

Content Summary: Correcting what some young believers in Thessalonica thought that led them to live more for *this life* than the life to come, Paul explains what genuine ministry looks like in light of the future return of Christ. Lives of self-sacrifice, love, purity, work, and encouragement should mark the Christian who lives in hopeful anticipation of Christ's destruction of the enemy, judgment of sin and trust that He will save His people.

Key Chapters:

- 2 Reminders of Paul's ministry to them
- 3 Reasons for rejoicing and concern about the church
- 4 Purity, disciplined living, the rapture

Key Passages:

- 3:6 Timothy has brought us good news of your faith/love
- 4:3-4 God's will is for your sanctification
- 4:13-18 Dead in Christ will be raised in Pre-Trib. rapture
- 5:1-3 The day of the Lord will come like a thief

Structure of the 1 Thessalonians

- I. The Prologue (1:1-10)
- II. The Body: Paul's Reminder of His Relationship with and His Exhortations to the Thessalonians (2:1-5:22)
 - Paul's Vindication before the Thessalonians (2:1-3:13)
 - Paul's Exhortation to the Thessalonians (4:1-5:22)
 - Paul's Exhortation regarding Personal Needs (4:1-12)
 - Paul's Exhortation regarding Eschatological Needs (4:13-5:11)
 - The Dead in Christ (4:13-18)
 - The Day of the Lord (5:1-11)
 - Paul's Exhortation regarding Ecclesiastical Needs (5:12-22)
- III. The Epilogue (5:23-28)

Purpose of 1 Thessalonians

Paul exhorted the Thessalonian believers to grow in holiness so that they might be blameless when Christ returns.

2 Thessalonians

Theme: Comfort and Correction

Outline: I. Encouragement in Persecution 1
II. Explanation of the Day of the Lord 2

Content Summary: Explaining why believers need to remain active (and keep their jobs!) as they wait for Christ's return, Paul praises God for their growth and faith despite opposition. And he warns them of serious consequences for being deceived by false teaching about the yet future day of the Lord and return of Christ.

Key Chapters:

- 2 Apostasy and Antichrist before the day of the Lord
- 3 Exhortations to purity and diligence in light of the coming day of the Lord

Key Passages:

- 2:1-12 The 'man of lawlessness'

Structure of the 2 Thessalonians

- I. The Prologue (1:1-12)
- II. The Body: Paul's Assurance to and Encouragement of the Thessalonians (2:1-3:15)
 - Paul's Assurance of Non-involvement in the Day of the Lord (2:1-17)
 - The False Claim (2:1-2)
 - The True Condition (2:3-12)
 - The Truth's Continuance (2:13-17)
 - Paul's Encouragement to Gainful Employment (Not Idleness) in the Present (3:1-15)
- III. The Epilogue (3:16-18)

Purpose of 2 Thessalonians

Paul called the Thessalonian believers to steadfastness and Christian growth in light of the return of Christ.

Introduction to 1, 2 Thessalonians

Title: "To the church of the Thessalonians"

Author: Paul (salutation from Silvanus and Timothy too)

Recipients: Newer Gentile Christians in Macedonia (prominent city: Thessalonica)

Date: 51 AD

Major Themes in 1, 2 Thessalonians

1. The Return of Christ—this and 2 Thessalonians are eschatological (last things) oriented letters to be sure, but also very ecclesiastical (church oriented) when you consider everything Paul exhorts these believers in. Their future hope for Christ's return, however, dictates their motive to live their lives in steadfastness.

The Parousia (coming)

(1 Thess: 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23)

(2 Thess. 2:1, 8)

The Day of the Lord

(1 Thess: 5:2)

(2 Thess: 2:2)

The Coming Wrath

(1 Thess: 1:10; 2:16; 5:9)

(2 Thess: 1:6-8)

2. Hope—the basis for all the other virtues in their Christian lives (faith and love in particular)

(1 Thess: 1:3; 2:19; 4:13; 5:8)

(2 Thess: 2:16)

3. Prayer—what happens when your genuine hope and trust is in the Lord

(1 Thess: 1:2; 3:11-13; 5:23-24)

(2 Thess: 1:11-12; 3:1-2, 5, 16)

4. Sanctified, Blameless Life

(1 Thess: 2:10-11; 3:13; 4:3; 5:4-10; 23-24)

(2 Thess: 2:13-14; 3:13)

Holy and prayerful, but not just waiting in idleness...

Eight Signs of a Christian Life (from Mark Dever)

- Live in order to please God (1 Thess. 4:1-2)
- Live a sexually holy life (1 Thess. 4:3-8)
- Live a life of brotherly love (1 Thess. 4:9-10)
- Live a respectable life (1 Thess. 4:11-12)
- Live a self-controlled and alert life (1 Thess. 5:4-10)
- Live a life of encouragement to others (1 Thess. 5:11-15)
- Live a God-centered life (1 Thess. 5:16-18)
- Live a discerning life testing everything (1 Thess. 5:19-22)

5. Paul's Model for New Believers

(1 Thess: 1:6-7; 2:5-12)

(2 Thess: 3:7-9)

Other Notes: