

The Book Of 1 Thessalonians

Paul established the church in Thessalonica during his second missionary journey around 51 A.D. This letter was written to encourage the young believers there. He wanted to assure them of his love, to praise them for their faithfulness during persecution, and to remind them of their hope, i.e. the sure return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chapter 1

1. The letter opens with a greeting from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. In chapter 17 of the book of Acts they were accused of “turning the world upside down.” It was meant as a negative attack but it was really a compliment and a tribute to the work the Lord was doing in them and upon the world. When people look at your walk do they see a life that’s making an impact on this world?
2. The address of this letter says, “To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” These are great things to say about a church; moreover these are great things to say about a Christian. Be encouraged and strive to be godly. You will never regret anything you gave up for the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Notice in verse 1 Paul’s typical salutation, “Grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Lord Jesus Christ is not first, middle, and last name. Jesus is His name, Lord is His title, and Christ (which means Messiah) was His mission. He came to save His people from their sins. The title Lord implies relationship and an obedient servant hood on our part. Is the Lord Jesus just Jesus to you or is He the Lord of your life?
4. In verse 2 prayer was so much at the core of what Paul was doing. His conversations with God were ongoing. In our lives and especially during the course of the average day, people will come to mind. Do you make mention of other people and by the same token do you pray for them when they come to mind?
5. In verse 3 Paul remembers without ceasing their work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. This famous trio is also mentioned in 1st Corinthians 13. Whatever we do vocationally or voluntarily should be done heartily unto the Lord as a work of faith. The love for the Lord should be an expression of our faith. A labor of love expresses itself in what we do. You love the people you’re serving. Love is an action. It’s a choice. It’s a verb. Patience of hope Biblically means “confidence that it’s going to happen and I’m sure of it.” You’re patient for what you know is going to be. These people were confident that according to the gospel Paul preached to them- the Lord Jesus was going to come again. He would return. In the areas of faith, hope, and love, where do you need encouragement? Don’t hesitate to reach out to the pastoral staff. Proverbs 11:14
6. According to verse 4 Paul says “Knowing beloved brethren, your election by God.” In other words, they were chosen by God. How did they know they were chosen? They accepted the Lord Jesus as their Savior. Have you been chosen by God? All you have to do is say yes to the Lord Jesus, confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you will be saved. That’s it!
7. In verse 6 the Thessalonians became followers of Paul, Silas, Timothy, and the Lord. Notice that they received the word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit. In other words, there is going to be trouble, pain, trials and tribulations in our life. In the middle of all that, we can have joy of the Holy Spirit; the perspective of heaven to come. Turn in your Bibles to Habakkuk 3:17-19. Praise the lord!
8. In verse 9 Paul is talking about the Thessalonians’ witness because they turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. The living and true God implies that everything else is dead and false. Have you put your faith in the one true and living God, the Lord Jesus Christ?
9. In verse 10, is your life characterized by the verb “waiting”? Are you living your life knowing that the Lord’s return is approaching? It goes on to say, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come- not that He will, but that He has. If you’re a

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Christian, you've put your faith in the Son of God - You are saved from God's wrath and judgment. Praise the Lord.

Chapter 2

1. In verse 1, Paul says that his visit was not in vain. The Thessalonians themselves were living evidence that his work had been fruitful. People were converted and a church was established. To read more about the beginnings of the church in Thessalonica turn in your Bibles to the book of Acts Chapter 17.
2. Verse 2 speaks about how badly Paul was treated in Philippi just before he came to Thessalonica. Paul had no fear of imprisonment. It didn't keep him from preaching the gospel. If God wants us to do something He will give us the strength and courage to do it. Are you facing obstacles that are keeping you from serving God?
3. Verse 5 deals with a very carnal motive-flattery. Flattery is phony and it is a cover up for a person's real intention. Christians should not be flatterers but have a special responsibility to be honest. Are you honest and straight forward in your words and actions, or are you an ear tickler in order to get what you want?
4. In verses 6-8 Paul uses the illustration of parenting to make his point. Paul said, "We were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children." He didn't flatter them nor seek their praise or become a burden to them. Paul realized that new converts needed gentleness. Notice in verse 8 some of the phrases Paul uses: "So affectionately longing for you," "Well pleased," and "You had become dear to us." We all have people in our lives that are dear to us. Are you being considerate, gentle, and meeting their needs?
5. A mother is to be nurturing and a father needs to be strong, protective, and wise. Here in verse 11 Paul uses the parenting illustration of fatherhood to impart wisdom and counsel. What does he exhort, comfort, and charge them to do in verse 12?
6. Verse 14 talks about persecution. This can be very discouraging especially from your loved ones. It's when you take a stand for the Lord Jesus that opposition, disapproval, and ridicule come. Sometimes it comes angrily and violently. Be mindful and read what the Lord and Paul had to say in Mark 8:38 and 2 Timothy 1:8.
7. In verse 17 Paul states that his separation from them was physical, not spiritual and his affection for them never waned. He said he endeavored more eagerly to see their face with great desire." That is intense! Have you ever wanted to see someone you have never met with that intensity?
8. In verses 17-20 Paul is so very interested in going back to Thessalonica because he had pointed them to the Lord. He felt responsible for their spiritual growth. In verse 19 what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?

Chapter 3

1. Verse 1 begins with the important word "therefore." Anytime we see this word we ask ourselves, "what is it there for?" It is a linking word that ties this chapter back to what Paul had talked about in the previous chapter. His affection and love for the people, and the family relationship that exists in the church. Do you feel part of the church family?
2. In verse 2 Paul describes Timothy three ways: as a brother, a minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ. The word minister is the Greek word "Diakonos." This is where we get our English word deacon which literally means servant. Are you serving in the church? The Lord Jesus said He did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many. In God's economy, it is through service that you achieve greatness.

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3. In verses 6-7 Timothy comes back to Paul with good news of the Thessalonians' faith and love. Good news does something to the soul, read proverbs 25:25. Paul goes on to say that they were comforted despite affliction and distress, how?
4. Verse 11-13 is Paul's prayer for the church. In verse 12 Paul prays that the Thessalonians increase and abound in God's love. If we are full of God's love it will overflow to others. The model or pattern should be the love of the apostles. Notice he says, "Just as we do to you." Is your love growing? Ask God to fill you again. He has a never ending supply.
5. In verse 13 Paul prayed that the Thessalonians would be ready when the Lord came with all of his saints. Are you living with a sense of urgency for the Lord's return? Pastor Titus teaches and exhorts us what to deny and how to live in the present age. Turn to the book of Titus chapter 2:11-15

Chapter 4

1. In verse 1 and 2, Paul makes a plea for purity. Sometimes we try to determine how close we can live to the world and still be a Christian. Ask yourself, "would God be pleased with my doing this"? Do I want to be doing this when Jesus comes back? If you want a great standard upon which we judge how we live, turn to John's Gospel 8:29.
2. Verse 3 gives us the will of God- "Our Sanctification." Sanctification means to be set apart and set aside for God's use. If you have put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ you are set aside for a Holy purpose. God wants to use you if you will let Him. Will you let Him? He is God!
3. Verses 9-12 deal with Christian love and living an orderly life. God has taught us to love one another. Here Paul tells us to kick it up a few more notches. He tells us to live a quiet life, mind your own business, and work with your own hands as you are commanded. What a great example of a Christian who lives quietly, minds their own business, and works really hard. Are you using the gifts God has given you? Does your life mirror these three aspects of an orderly life?
4. According to verses 16-17 Jesus is coming for His church. He's going to catch us up. We will be taken by force out of this world. This is known as the rapture. It's going to take us by surprise. Read Luke 12:40. God wants us to live in constant, minute by minute readiness for His return. Are you ready for this magnificent event?

Chapter 5

1. According to verses 1-3 Paul tells us that you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. People will be saying all is well and that everything is peaceful and secure. Then suddenly as a woman's birth pangs begin, disaster will fall upon the world. We should be ready at all times. Suppose the Lord were to return today? How would He find you living? Are you ready to meet Him? Be prepared!
2. Verse 6 tells us not to sleep as others do, but to watch and be sober. Jesus said in Revelation 3:3, "If you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief." We must be watching for the return of Christ. Over and over Jesus spoke to His disciples about His coming. He said, "Watch." We are to be watching for signs. Are you aware of what is happening around you? Turn to Luke 21:25-28. We need to be looking, watching, and to be sober. The Lord Jesus Messiah is coming for His church.
3. Verse 9 is a glorious verse. We will not be here for the great tribulation. This is when the Lord's wrath is upon the earth. Praise the Lord He has not appointed us to wrath. For reference and further study read Genesis 18.
4. In verses 12-13 Paul tells us to recognize our church leaders. Express your appreciation and tell them how you have been helped by their leadership and

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teaching. If you say nothing, how will they know where you stand? Remember that Paul is urging you to reach out in support and love for the Pastor and the other church leaders.

5. According to verses 16-18 we are to be a joyful church, a praying church, and a thankful church. This is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. We should be joyful because our sins have been forgiven and we are going to heaven. We should be praying without ceasing. This does not mean on our knees twenty-four hours a day, but to be in constant awareness and communion with God. We should in everything, give thanks! Do you know for sure your life is in God's hands? If God allows something to happen in our lives then He has a purpose for it. Be thankful for the good He will accomplish through the trial.
6. In this fifth chapter, beginning at verse 11-27, Paul gives Christians a total of twenty-two commandments. The first commandment in verse 11 is, comfort each other and edify one another. The last commandment in verse 27, I charge you by the Lord that this epistle is read to all the holy brethren. Go through these verses and find the remaining 20 commandments. Jesus said if you love Me, keep my commandments. We are to always look for the coming of the Lord. It is also very important to be walking the straight and narrow while we are looking. Grace and peace to you.