

1 THESSALONIANS SESSION 1

About the letter: It was written by the Apostle Paul in 50-51 AD. It's one of the earliest writings of the New Testament being within 20 years of Christ's resurrection. Thessalonica is in Greece (called Macedonia in scripture). Paul visited there during his second missionary journey and was the founder of the church there. He had a great love for these people that he expresses in the letter. He wrote the letter to encourage these people because they were suffering afflictions from the people around them, as well as instruct them about the second coming of Christ. Most of his epistles start out doctrinal then move to practical teaching, this letter starts out personal then moves on to practical instructions.

1 Thessalonians 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. This is the greeting which is like all Paul's letters. Silvanus is Silas...Paul always calls him Silvanus and Luke always calls him Silas.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; 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; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God. *Like all the churches that Paul had knowledge of, he prays for these people. He commends their faith, love, and patience. Faith is the motivation for works, not the other way around. Love is the source of labor...it's agape love. Patience means that they were long suffering in their afflictions. Election is a position in Christ meaning that you were chosen of God. When you go back to your beginnings with God, you must confess that He initiated your relationship...not you.*

1 Thessalonians 1:5-7 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. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. *You cannot separate Spirit and truth...both must be present in a salvation experience. Truth by itself will not get the job done. The Spirit of God is what makes the gospel powerful and convinces the sinner to respond. These people responded to gospel and became followers of the Apostles and the Lord even though they were persecuted because of it. They were conversions and manner of living became examples to two great regions of their time.*

1 Thessalonians 1:8 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. *Paul commends them for their faith and the impact that they have made in all directions. Their faith was strong, their actions were godly, and they spread the word diligently.*

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 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; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. *Repentance involves a turning...these people turned from idols to serve the living and true God. Godly sorrow works repentance and in repentance you turn away from sin (being a rebel against God) and turn to God for salvation - Acts 20:21* Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. *Now the saved wait and watch for the Son who has delivered from the coming wrath of God.*

1 Thessalonians 2:1-2 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention. *Paul recalls how they were treated at Philippi when they were arrested, beaten, and thrown into the dungeon. But God showed out with a great earthquake that set them all free and brought the jailer to conversion, which led to the conversion of his household. Paul said these things gave him great boldness to preach when he got to Thessalonica.*

1 Thessalonians 2:3-6 For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. *Paul says that there was nothing deceitful or dishonest about their preaching there. They didn't do it for money or fame but strictly to please God which tries our hearts (He knows why we do what we do). They worked hard to support themselves so they wouldn't be a burden on the people and that the gospel be not hindered.*

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we

would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. *Paul says we treated you like precious children because of our love for you. Nursing, meaning they held the milk of the word of God to their mouths and fed them so they would grow.*

1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. *He says that they exhorted them (built them up), and comforted them (provided consolation), and charged them (laid on them responsibility) – that they would walk worthy of God (learn to please God by your manner of life).*

1 Thessalonians 2:13-16 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost. *Paul recalls how with such zeal they received their preaching and teaching. They received it for what it was – the word of God, and it worked effectually in them. He then says that they are like the churches in Judaea in that they were suffering at the hands of their own people like the Jews were. The wrath of God was mounting against the Jews that were persecuting his church and turning a deaf ear to the preaching being sent to them. In twenty years from this time Jerusalem will be totally destroyed.*

1 Thessalonians 2:17-18 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire. Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us. *Paul had a great love for these people and desired to come back to them twice but was unable to.*

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy. *Considering the Lord's return, Paul says that leading these people to Christ, discipling them and watching them develop for the kingdom of God is what he lives for. That they are his crown and his glory meaning that their salvation and sanctification was the reward itself.*

