

1 Thessalonians 01 - (1:1-3)

An Introduction to Thessalonians

1. Purpose of the Study

- a. They were a new and 'effectual' church – 1 Thess 1:5; 2:13
- b. A greater understanding of Jesus' message to Paul – Acts 9:15, Gal 1:12
- c. To furnish unto good works and not confusion – 2 Tim 2:15; 3:16

2. Popular Passages

- a. Delivered from wrath – 1 Thess 1:10, 5:9 → The tribulation question
- b. The Lord's coming - 1 Thess 4:13-18 → "rapture" / destiny of the Church
 - i. Related passages – Matthew 24:40-41

3. What to expect

- a. Dispensational context: Paul's earliest writings, under grace – 1 Thess 1:1
- b. Date: The place in transition (Acts) is more useful than a year & month
 - i. Timothy joins Paul - Acts 16:1
 - ii. Vision to go to Macedonia - 16:9
 - iii. Goes to Philippi - 16:12
 - iv. Goes to Thessalonica – 17:1
 - v. Mostly Greek believers – 17:4-5, Jews tried to prevent Paul
 - vi. Paul is sent to Berea and then the coast - 17:10-11
 - vii. Timothy returns from Thessalonica – 1 Thess 3:6 & Acts 18:5
- c. Subject – Paul's relationship (1-3); Admonition/Will of God (4-5)
- d. Purpose – 1 Thess 3:10-4:1 – "abound more and more"
- e. Theme –
 - i. "Coming of the Lord" → 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:16; 5:23
 - ii. "Will of God" – mentioned twice → 4:3, 5:18

4. Outline:

- a. 1 – Our gospel came unto you
- b. 2 – You know our example (Paul's example)
- c. 3 – Timothy sent to establish / good report
- d. 4 – How to walk and please God / Comfort of hope
- e. 5 – The coming of the Lord / Warnings to the unruly

5. 1 Thess 1:1-3

- a. 1:1 - Silvanus and Silas → 2 Cor 1:19 & Acts 18:5
- b. "Grace be unto you and peace" – Different than Rom 2:5; Rev 19:11
 - i. Returns taking vengeance - 2 Thess 1:8
- c. 1:2-3 – Paul prays about them in thanksgiving (also in 2:13)
 - i. work, labour, patience – faith, hope, love → 1 Cor 13:13