

New Testament Survey
1 THESSALONIANS

Author: Paul

Date: A.D. 51

Theme: Model Church: Paul's personal commendation of the Thessalonians' steadfastness in persecution and practical exhortation about current problems.

Misc. Paul first came to Thessalonica on his second missionary journey (Acts 17:1f). It was a prominent seaport at that time & capital of the Roman province of Macedonia. It was on the main road (the Via Egnatia) from Rome to the East. It may have had a population of up to 200,000 which included a sizable Jewish population and "God fearing" Gentiles.

It is uncertain how long Paul was there (a month or longer?) and it appears that many of his converts had been Gentile idolaters (1:9; 2:14-16). After leaving Thessalonica Paul went to Athens from which he later sends Timothy back to Thessalonica (3:1,2). Paul then goes to Corinth from which he wrote this letter in response to Timothy's report (3:6; Acts 18:5).

Brief Outline

- I. Personal Reflections (Chapters 1-3)
 - A. Paul's Commendation for Their Growth (1:1-10)
 - B. Paul's Founding of the Church (2:1-16)
 - C. Timothy's Strengthening of the Church (2:17-3:13)
- II. Practical Exhortation (4-5)
 - A. Concerning Christian Conduct (4:1-12)
 - B. Concerning the Coming of the Lord (4:13-5:11)
 - C. Concerning Holy Living (5:12-22)
 - D. Conclusion (5:23-28)

People to Know: Paul, Timothy, Silvanus

Key Chapters & Verses: (Bold required for Elders)

- 2:7. . . . "But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children."
- 3:12-13. "and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all men, just as we also do for you; so that He may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints"
- 4:3-12..** Instructions regarding sexual purity and social conduct
- 4:13-18.** "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve... (Rapture is comfort & hope to believers; dead precede those remaining)
- 5:1-3..** . "The day of the Lord" will come suddenly on the world with destruction - "while they are saying, 'Peace and safety!'"

Detailed Outline - 1 Thessalonians

I. Personal Reflections (Chapters 1-3)

A. Salutation (1:1)

B. Paul's Commendation of Them (1:2-10)

1. His Thanksgiving and Prayer for Them (2-4)

2. Their Reception of the Gospel (5)

3. Their Imitation and Example (6-8)

4. The Testimony about Them (9-10)

C. Paul's Founding of the Church (2:1-16)

1. Paul's Coming (1-2)

2. Paul's Motives (3-6)

3. Paul's Example (7-12)

a. His Affection (7-8)

b. His Labor (9)

c. His Behavior (10)

d. His Exhortation (11-12)

4. Their Response (13-16)

a. Acceptance of the Message (13)

b. Endurance in Suffering (14-16)

5 Paul's Longing for Them (17-20)

D. Timothy's Strengthening of the Church (3:1-13)

1. Timothy Sent to Them (1-5)

2. Timothy's Report about Them (6-11)
 - a. It Brought Comfort (6-8)

- b. It Brought Thanks (9-10)

3. Paul's Prayer for Them (11-13)

II. Practical Exhortations (Chapters 4-5)

A. Concerning Christian Conduct (4:1-12)

1. Excel Still More (1)
 2. Abstain from Sexual Immorality (3-8)
 - a. God's Will is Sanctification (2-3)
 - b. Possessing Your Own Vessel (4-5)
 - c. Not Transgressing a Brother (6)
 - d. Avoid Rejecting God (7-8)

2. Love One Another (9-10)

3. Mind Your Own Affairs (11,12)

B. Concerning the Coming of the Lord (4:13-5:11)

1. Comfort Concerning the Dead in Christ (4:13-18)
 - a. The Concern (13)
 - b. The Belief (14)
 - c. The Promise (15)
 - d. The Future Fulfillment (16-17)
 - e. The Comfort (18)

2. Preparation for the Day of the Lord (5:1-11)

a. It's Coming (1-2)

b. Unbelievers and the Day (3)

c. Believers and the Day (4-11)

i. Being Sons of light (4-8)

ii. Destined for Salvation (9-10)

iii. Encouragement for the Brethren (11)

C. Concerning Holy Living (5:12-22)

1. Responsibilities to Leaders (12-13)

2. Responsibilities to One Another (14-15)

3. Responsibilities for One's Self (16-22)

a. Positive Commands

i. Rejoice (16)

ii. Pray (17)

iii. Give Thanks (18)

b. Negative Commands

1. Do not Quench the Spirit (19)

2. Do not Despise Prophecy (20-21)

3. Abstain from Evil (22)

D. Conclusion (15:23-28)

1. Request for Prayer (23-25)

2. Final Requests & Instructions (26-27)

3. Salutation (28)

New Testament Survey
2 THESSALONIANS

Author: Paul

Date: 51

Theme: Comfort and Correction. Paul encourages the Thessalonians in their persecution, corrects their doctrinal error about the Day of the Lord with an explanation, and exhorts them to live in readiness

Misc. See 1 Thessalonians.

This second letter was also written from Corinth, probably a few months after the first in response to additional information brought about the current situation in Thessalonica. They were still being persecuted, and false teaching concerning the day of the Lord was resulting in some giving up their work resulting in the idleness mentioned in 1 Thess. 4:11,12 becoming more serious. Paul writes to encourage them in their persecution, correct the doctrinal error and exhort them to proper living.

Brief Outline

- I. Encouragement in Persecution (Chapter 1)
 - A. Commendations (1-4)
 - B. Explanations (5-10)
 - C. Intercession (11-12)
- II. Explanation of the Day of the Lord (Chapter 2)
 - A. The Coming of the Day of the Lord (1-12)
 - B. Standing Firm Until That Day (13-17)
- III. Exhortations to Readiness (Chapter 3)
 - A. Confession of Confidence (1-5)
 - B. Commandments to Work (6-15)
 - C. Conclusion (16-18)

People to Know:

Key Chapters & Verses: (Bold required for Elders)

1:7-10

2. . . . Explanation of the Day of the Lord.

2:1-12. Instruction - the day of the Lord will come after the apostasy comes and the man of lawlessness is revealed. The Holy Spirit restraining influence will be removed and great delusion will come on unbelievers.

3. . . . Exhortations to purity and diligence in light of the coming Day of the Lord.

Detailed Outline of 2 Thessalonians

I. Encouragement in Persecution (Chapter 1)

A. Salutation (1-2)

B. Commendations (3-4)

1. Their Faith & Love (3)

2. Their Steadfastness (4)

C. Explanations (5-10)

1. Persecution's Indication (5)

2. God's Future Affliction of the Persecutors (6-10)

a. God's Justice (6)

b. Relief of the Saints (7)

c. Retribution on the Disobedient (8,9)

d. When It Will Happen (10)

D. Intercession (11-12)

II. Explanation of the Day of the Lord (Chapter 2)

A. The Coming of the Day of the Lord (1-12)

1. The Concern (1-2)

2. The Signs of the Day of the Lord (3)

3. The Characteristics of the Man of Lawlessness (4-5)

4. The Restrainer (6,7)

5. Their Destruction (8-10)

6. Their Delusion (11-12)

B. Standing Firm Until That Day (13-17)

1. God has Chosen You (13)

2. He has Called You for Glory (14)

3. Stand Firm in the Traditions (15)

4. Benediction (16-17)

III. Exhortations to Readiness (Chapter 3)

A. Confession of Confidence (1-5)

1. Paul's Prayer Request (1-2)

2. Confidence in the Lord (3-4)

3. Paul's Prayer for Them (5)

B. Commandments to Work (6-15)

1. Avoid the Unruly (6)

2. Paul's Work Ethic (7-9)

a. His Example (7-9)

b. His Command (10)

3. Correction of the Idle (11-12)

4. Encouragement of the Faithful (13)

5. Admonishment of the Disobedient (14-15)

C. Conclusion & Salutation (16-18)