



1 Thessalonians

LIVING FOR CHRIST'S SOON RETURN



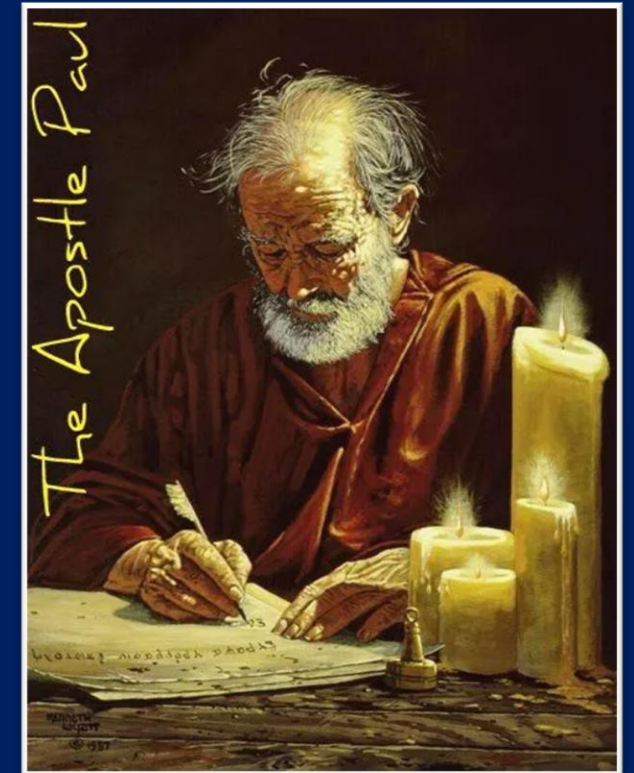
Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

Structure

1 THESSALONIANS 1-3	1 THESSALONIANS 4-5
■ Personal Experience	■ Practical Exhortation
■ Looking Back	■ Looking Forward



Structure



■ Personal (1–3)

- ◆ Genuine conversion (1)
- ◆ Impure motives (2:1-16)
- ◆ Lack of concern (2:17–3:13)

■ Practical (4–5)

- ◆ Immorality (4:1-8)
- ◆ Laziness (4:9-12)
- ◆ Eschatology (4:13–5:11)
- ◆ Ministry imbalances (5:12-15)
- ◆ Progressive sanctification (5:16-28)

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Church Life



- 5:12-13 – Attitude toward leaders
- 5:14-15 – Ministry toward one another



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Practical Sanctification (5:16-24)



- Three positive commands (5:16-18)
- Three negative commands (5:19-22)
- Divine enablement (5:23-24)

Three Positive Commands (5:16-18)



1. Rejoice always (5:16)
2. Pray without ceasing (5:17)
3. Give thanks in all things (5:18)



Practical Sanctification (5:16-24)

- Three positive commands (5:16-18)
- **Three negative commands (5:19-22)**
- Divine enablement (5:23-24)

Three Negative Commands (5:19-22)



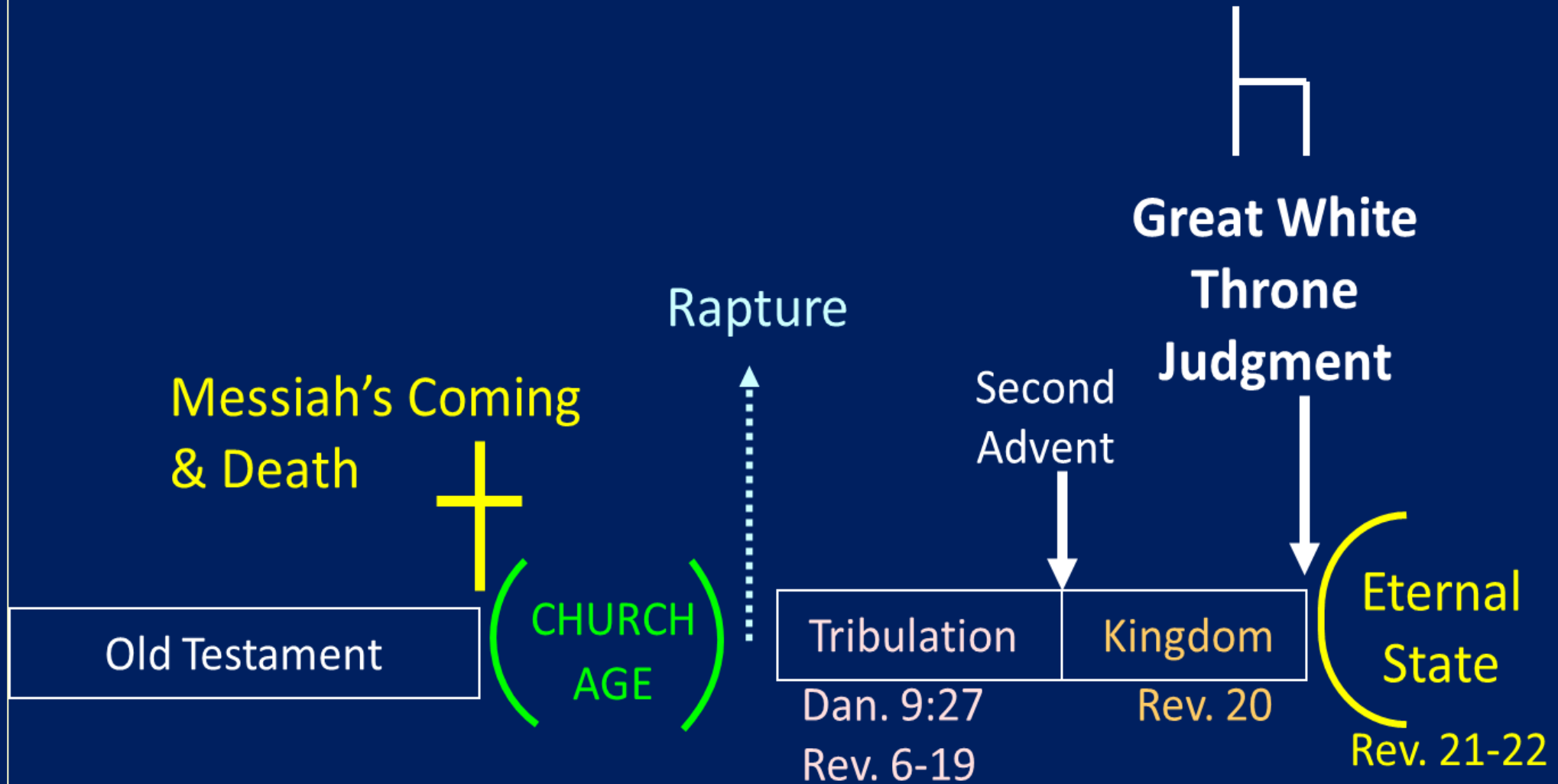
1. Do not quench the Spirit (5:19)
2. Do not despise prophetic utterances (5:20-21)
3. Abstain from evil (5:22)

Practical Sanctification (5:16-24)



- Three positive commands (5:16-18)
- Three negative commands (5:19-22)
- Divine enablement (5:23-24)

Prophecy Panorama

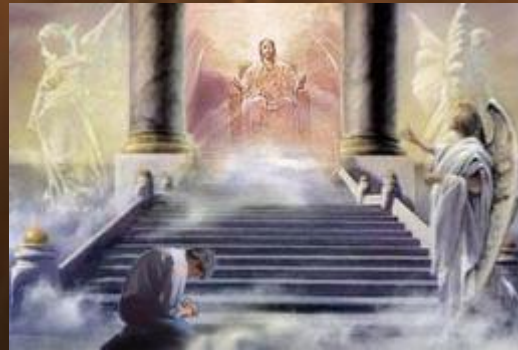


Scripture's Four Judgments

NAME	SHEEP AND GOAT	JUDGMENT OF THE JEWS	BEMA SEAT	GREAT WHITE THRONE
SCRIPTURE	Matt 25:31-46	Ezek 20:33-44	1 Cor 3:10-15	Rev 20:11-15
PLACE	Earth, Jerusalem	Earth, wilderness	Heaven	Earth
AUDIENCE	Gentile Tribulation survivors	Jewish Tribulation survivors	Church Age believers	All unsaved
WHEN	After Tribulation	After Tribulation	After rapture	After Millennium
PURPOSE	Saved Gentiles enter kingdom	Saved Jews enter kingdom	Reward believers	Degree of punishment in hell
EVALUATION	Treatment of Christ's brethren	Passing under shepherd's rod	Works taken through fire	Not in the book; judged by books

2 Corinthians 5:10

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”



Romans 14:10, 12

“¹⁰...For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God...¹² So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.”



1 Corinthians 3:10-15

“¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw. ¹⁴ If any man's work which he ...



1 Corinthians 3:10-15

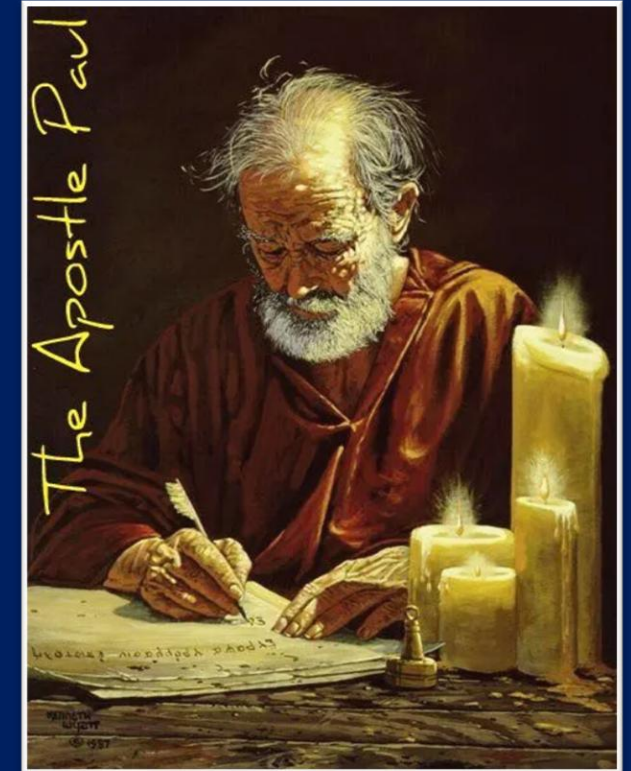
. . .has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."



Unique Characteristics



- Every chapter ends with a reference to the Second Advent
- Small amount of time in between planting of the church and the first letter to the church



1 Thessalonians 1:10

“and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues (*rhyomai*) us from (*ek*) the wrath (*orgē*) to come..”

WRATH



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from . . .



1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

...heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words."



Romans 8:29–30

29 For those whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He **called**, He also justified; and these whom He **justified**, He also **glorified**.

Where's **sanctification**?

Galatians 3:3

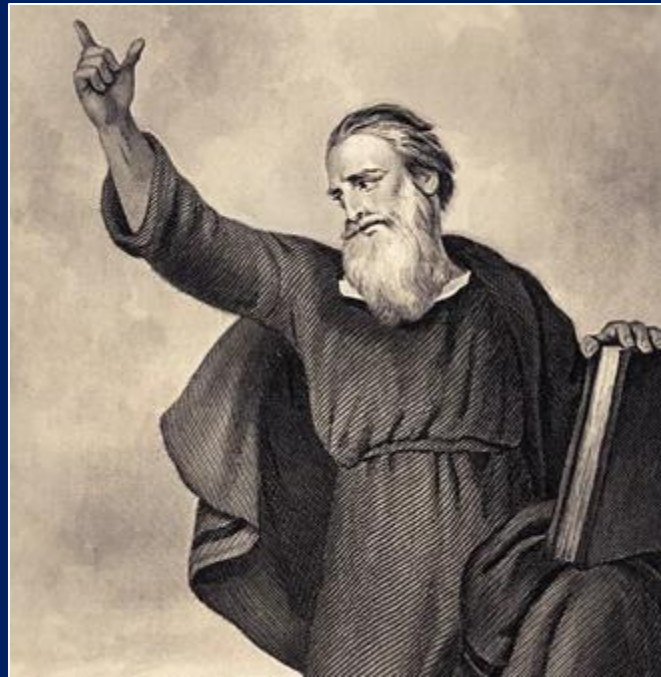
“Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”



Conclusion (5:25-28)



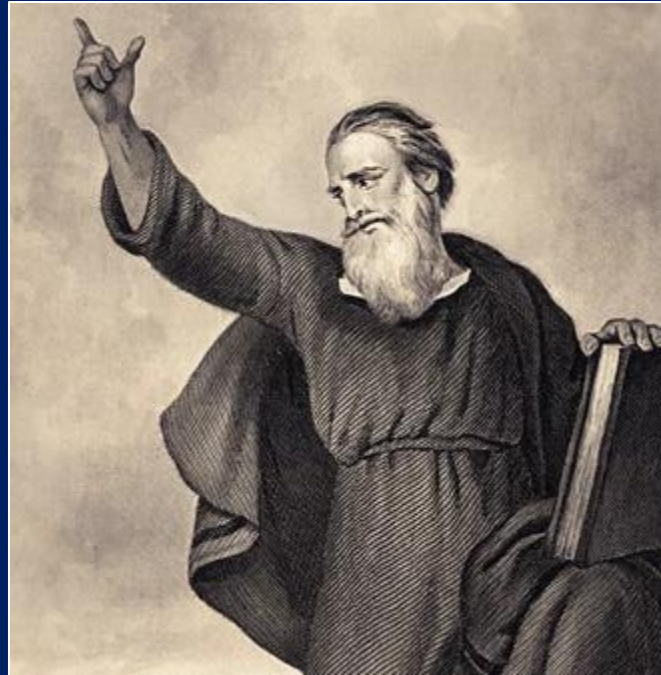
- Three personal requests (5:25-27)
- Benediction (5:28)



Conclusion (5:25-28)



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Three Personal Requests (5:25-27)



1. Prayer (5:25)
2. Greet the brethren (5:26)
3. Read the letter aloud (5:27)

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1 Timothy 4:13

“Until I come, give your attention to the public reading, to exhortation, and teaching.”



2 Timothy 3:16-17

“¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God [*theopneustos*] and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”





Emphasis of 2 Timothy

“By my count, there are twenty-seven explicit commands given in the body of this letter. In 27 words Paul tells pastors what to focus on. You have to be blind to miss the thrust of Paul's instructions here, because *eighteen* of those commands--fully *two-thirds*--have to do with the ministry of the *Word*.”

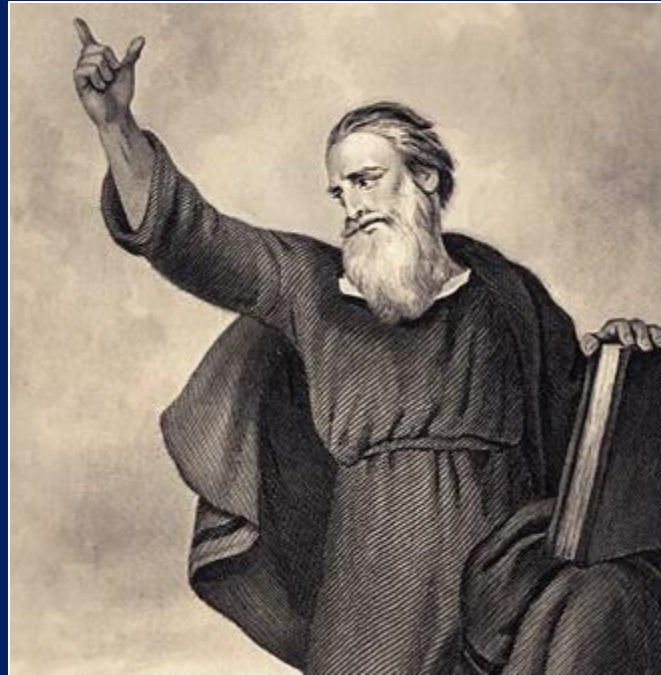
Daniel Wallace, “Crisis of the Word: A Message to Pastors or Would-be Pastors,”
Conservative Theological Journal 1, no. 2 (August 1997): 108.

Conclusion

(5:25-28)



- Three personal requests (5:25-27)
- Benediction (5:28)



2 Peter 3:18

“but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.”



Conclusion

Message



- Continued growth in faith, hope, and love in view of the Lord's imminent return



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