

# 1 Thessalonians: *A Beacon of Hope*

## Part One - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:13

### “Attributes of the Thessalonians”

November 26, 2023

- Hope is confident expectation, not wishful thinking
- The context for 1 Thessalonians can be found in Acts 17, 18 and 1 Thess. 3
- Outline
  - Commendation (1:1-10)
  - Paul’s Character defended (2:1-12)
  - Thessalonians Magnified in Christ (2:13-20)
  - Suffering is to be Expected (3:1-13)
    - Endurance Produces the Perfect (mature) Man (3:6-13)
  - Excel in the Walk (4:1-12)
  - Be Comforted (4:13-18)
  - The Day of the Lord (5:1-11)
    - Not for Believers
    - Believers are to be a Beacon of Hope
  - Godly Counsel (5:12-28)
- 1 Thess. contains no condemnation
  - Allow rebuke to bring you repentance
  - Proverbs 12:15—The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.
- Verses 2 & 3
  - They are workers of faith (2:13-14)
  - They are producers of love (4:9)
  - They are steadfast in hope (5:11)
- The Thessalonian church seems to be a model church for 1 Cor 13:13— But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.
- The Thessalonians had an expectation of Christ’s return
  - Every chapter mentions the return of Christ
  - 1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:14-17, 5:23 (day of the Lord mentioned in 5:2, but that is not for believers)
  - They are preparing for the return of the Lord, not with selfish ambition, but selfless ambition, being others motivated—a beacon of hope
- 2:1-12—Paul’s defense
  - A reminder of who he is, what he did and how he did it
  - Don’t take everything personally, remember the individual’s proven character, remember the Lord’s proven character
- 2:13
  - They heard and received the Word of God to change their lives
  - The Word is authoritative and should prove so in our personal lives
- Do you have hope?
  - God loves you
  - Jesus died to pay for your sin, was buried and rose again on the third day that all who believe in Him will not perish but have eternal life