Letters to the Thessalonians
Introduction
1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

Slide 1: The Reason for the Letter

1. To give info about the return of Christ - 1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:17, 5:23

Each New Testament book has a special theme:
Galatians - Freedom
Philippians - Joy
Colossians - Supremacy of Christ

Slide 2: The Why?

2. To instruct New Christians

- Thessalonica was filled with new believers

- Paul started the church and wrote the letters

3. To provide hope in uncertain times

Slide 3: Background Information:

- One of the oldest books in the NT (less than 20 years after the resurrection)
- One of the shortest books of the NT (Only 79 verses)
- One of the easiest books to understand
- Took place on Paul's second missionary journey

Slide 4: Background information:

- Paul was with Silas and Timothy
- The ministry to Thessalonica is recorded in Acts 17
- The congregation is made of up mostly Greeks, a few jewish believers, and prominent women

-After leaving Paul went to Athens, but sent Timothy back to see how the church was doing

Slide 5: The Language of Thessalonians

Church (Ekklesia) - a gathering of people who have been called together to come and meet with God.

God the Father - Only used by Jesus in the Gospels - After the resurrection used by everyone

John 1:12: "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Slide 6: The Language of Thessalonians

The Lord Jesus Christ - The one who was born, lived, died, and rose from the dead. (Christ is not his second name)

They are children of God the Father and those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord

Slide 7: The Language of Thessalonians

Grace - God's undeserved favor shown through Jesus, bringing forgiveness, salvation, and new life.

Peace - complete wholeness, harmony, and well-being in relationship with God, others, and creation.

Slide 8: The Language of the Thessalonians

Labour prompted by love - Self-sacrificing for the good of others

Work produced by faith - Making being a Christian be your primary vocation

Endurance inspired by hope - perseverance that flows from trust in God's promised future.\

Slide 9: Practical Translation

Labour prompted by love - Does your faith show up in the way you live?

Work produced by faith - Does your love move you to serve and sacrifice?

Endurance inspired by hope - Does your hope give you strength to endure?