



“FELLOWSHIP OF THE FAITHFUL!”

1 Thessalonians Introduction & Chapter 1

- Author: *Paul* - Date written: *A.D. 51* - Written from: *Corinth*

- Theme: *The Return of Christ*

- Key Verses: *2:19; 3:12-13; 4:15-18; 5:9-11, 23*

- Key chapter: *Chapter 4 (The rapture of the Church!)*

- Insight on various Christian Doctrines:

(1) *the Trinity (1:1, 5-6);*

(2) *the Holy Spirit (1:5-6; 4:8; 5:19);*

(3) *Christ’s second advent (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:14-17; 5:23);*

(4) *the Day of the Lord (5:1-3);*

(5) *assurance (1:5)*

(6) *conversion (1:9);*

(7) *election (1:4);*

(8) *resurrection (4:14-18);*

(9) *sanctification (4:3; 5:23);*

(10) *Christian behavior (2:12; 4:1).*

- Missions outreach: *Paul arrived in Thessalonica on his second missionary journey, Acts 17:1-15.*

Chapter 1 – Fellowship of the Faithful! (Four observations)

> Observation #1 - THE PEOPLE! (v1-2)

(v1a) The word “*church*” means “*a called-out people.*” Christians have been called-out of this world and called into kingdom of heaven! (Jesus said in **Matthew 4:17** – *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*)

(1b) These believers have received God’s **GRACE** (**Ephesians 2:8-9**) and **PEACE** (**Romans 5:1**); thus, we find these twins of good news come from **GOD OUR FATHER** and the **LORD JESUS CHRIST**. Paul completes the display of the **Trinity** in verses 5-6 with the **POWER AND JOY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**.

- Warren Wiersbe writes regarding GRACE and MERCY, “God in His grace gives us what we do not deserve, and God in His mercy does not give us what we do deserve.”

(v2) Paul and others give **THANKS TO GOD ALWAYS** for the church and **PRAY** for them regularly.

> Observation #2 - The PROGRESS! (v3-4)

(v3) Observe the good news of their good works (these are three evidences of salvation):

#1 – Work of **FAITH** (**James 2:14-26**)

#2 – Labor of **LOVE** (**1 Corinthians 13:4-8**)

#3 – Patience of **HOPE** (**1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:17-18**)

- **Faith, love, and hope creates a fulfilled life!**

- **Lightfoot**, the Bible scholar writes, “Faith rests on the past; love works in the present; hope looks to the future.”

- **Edmond Hiebert** says, “in the Christian life faith comes first as the source of all Christian virtues; love is the sustaining power that enable the believer to persevere in the face of opposition and suffering for the faith; and hope looks to the future, serving as the beacon-star that guides the saint to his heavenly haven. It has been summed up saying,

Faith looks back to a crucified Savior.

Love looks up to a crowned Savior.

Hope looks on to a coming Savior.”

(v4) **Knowing your ELECTION by God** – The Unger’s Bible Dictionary writes the following regarding “election” – It is with regard to election in this third sense that theological controversies have been frequent and at times most fierce.

- **Calvinists** hold that the election of individuals to salvation is absolute, unconditional, by virtue of an eternal divine decree.

- **Arminians** regard election as conditional upon repentance and faith; the decree of God is that all who truly repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved. But every responsible person determines for himself whether or not he will repent and believe. Sufficient grace is bestowed upon everyone to enable him to make the right decision.

- **C.H. Spurgeon** said the following in regards to the election of the believer, “On the outside of the gates of heaven we read “**Whosoever may come**” and upon passing through gate, that is on the backside of the gate one would read “**Chosen in Christ form the foundation of the world.**””

> **Observation #3 - THE POWER! (v5-9)**

> **The POWER of God testifies that:**

- 1- **We’re BORN AGAIN!**
- 2- **We’re assured of our SALVATION!**
- 3- **We follow JESUS!**
- 4- **We endure AFFLICTION!**
- 5- **We’re filled with JOY!**
- 6- **We share our FAITH!**
- 7- **We’ve REPENTED, we’ve turned to GOD!**

> **Observation #4 - THE PROMISE! (v.10)**

> **Christians are delivered from the WRATH TO COME! (Four points)**

#1 - Why God’s wrath? Romans 1:18-31

#2 - Opportunity for the World: John 3:36 - “*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*”

#3 - Concern for the Believer: Hebrews 3:10-14 - *Therefore I was angry with that generation, and said, 'They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways.' So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' " Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,*

#4 - Be saved from the wrath to come: Romans 5:6-11- *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*