

1 & 2 THESSALONIANS

NT Overview

Teaching Outline

Main Idea: Encourage believers to stand firm in their faith by actively living a life pleasing to God

Context of 1 Thessalonians

- **Author:** Paul
- **Audience:** Churches in Thessalonica
- **Situation:** Persecution has come to the Church and Paul sent Timothy to learn of their faith (Acts 17)

Live a life of Example in Thanksgiving (1:2 - 2:16)

- Give thanks to God (1:2-3)
- We must imitate Christ (1:6)
- Trust in the Gospel (2:1-8 & 13)
- Walk in a manner worthy (2:9-12)

An Encouraging Report (2:17 - 3:13)

- The joy of seeing others come to Christ (2:19-20)
- Do not be moved by affliction (3:3-5)
- A healthy longing to see fellow believers (3:6)
- Abound in love for one another (3:12)

Live a life pleasing to God (4:1-12)

- Control your own body (4:4)
- Look to live a quiet life (4:11)
- Depend on God alone (4:12)

Hope in the Lord's Return (4:13-5:11)

- God will not forget his people (4:13-15)
- Christ will gather His Church (4:16-17)
- Remain awake and ready (5:5-7)

Godly living in community (5:12-28)

- Live with respect to others (5:12)
- Live in peace (5:13)
- Live in patience (5:14)
- Live with Joy (5:16-17)

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Main Idea: Encourage believers to stand firm in their faith by actively living a life pleasing to God

Context of 2 Thessalonians

- **Author:** Paul
- **Audience:** Churches in Thessalonica
- **Situation:** To explain that the day of the Lord is not yet, and to encourage and strengthen the believers amidst persecution

Stand Firm amidst False Proclamation (1:3 - 2:17)

- Have boldness amidst afflictions (1:4 & 2:15)
- Jesus will return in righteous glory & Judgment
- Condemnation comes to those who don't know Christ
- God Himself will comfort you (2:16-17)

Live a life filled with Prayer (3:1-5)

- Pray for the gospel to spread
- Pray for deliverance
- Pray in the faithfulness of God
- Pray knowing the love of God

Live an active faith (3:6-15)

- Don't listen to those who stand idly by (3:6)
- Labor and toil for God (3:8-9)
- Encourage one another to work (3:13-15)

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Discussion Guide

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Main Idea: Encourage believers to stand firm in their faith by actively living a life pleasing to God

Intro Question: What is something you love to do that makes you comfortable?

Teaching Part 1

1 Thessalonians

What are some things you are thankful for? How often do you thank God for these things?

Spend some time right now to share something that you are thankful for, whether that is your family, friends, food, fellowship. Then three times throughout this week, try and spend five minutes writing down things you are thankful for.

What are some things we can do as a community to respect one another? What is the hardest fruit of the spirit for you to show to others?

The Fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control

What are other things we may depend on other than God? How can we learn to depend on God in all things?

Teaching Part 2

2 Thessalonians

Why do we hope in Christ's return? How should this lead us to be bold now?

As Christians we long for the glory that comes in Christ's return, where there will be no more sin and He will conquer death forever. Knowing that our life is not our own, and that Christ could return anytime must lead us to being on mission to share the gospel with those who don't know it now.

What are some ways we can practically live a life full of prayer?

Talk about prayerful meditation on scripture, praying the Bible, praying for others, praying in community.

Who in your life is it hard to encourage? How can you look for ways to love and encourage them this week?

Answer to Remember: The letters of the New Testament are God's inspired instructions to His people about the gospel, the Christian life, and the Church.

Context of 1 & 2 Thessalonians

- **Author:** _____
- **Audience:** Churches in _____
- **Situation:** _____ has come to the Church and Paul sent Timothy to learn of their faith

Live a life of _____ in Thanksgiving (1:2 - 2:16)

- Give _____ to God
- We must _____ Christ
- _____ in the Gospel
- Walk in a _____

An _____ Report (2:17 - 3:13)

- The joy of _____ others come to Christ (2:19-20)
- Do not be _____ by affliction (3:3-5)
- A healthy _____ to see fellow believers (3:6)
- _____ in love for one another (3:12)

Live a life _____ to God (4:1-12)

- _____ your own body (4:4)
- Look to live a _____ life (4:11)
- Depend on _____ alone

_____ in the Lord's Return (4:13-5:11)

- God will not _____ his people (4:13-15)
- Christ will _____ His Church (4:16-17)
- Remain _____ and ready (5:5-7)

Godly living in _____ (5:12-28)

- Live with _____ to others (5:12)
- Live in _____ (5:13)
- Live in _____ (5:14)
- Live with _____ (5:16-17)

Stand _____ amidst False Proclamation (1:3 - 2:17)

- Have _____ amidst afflictions (1:4 & 2:15)
- Jesus will _____ in righteous glory & Judgment
- _____ comes to those who don't know Christ
- God Himself will _____ you (2:16-17)

Live a life filled with _____ (3:1-5)

- Pray for the _____ to spread
- Pray for _____
- Pray in the _____ of God
- Pray _____ the love of God

Live an _____ faith (3:6-15)

- Don't listen to those who _____ by (3:6)
- Labor and _____ for God (3:8-9)
- _____ one another to work (3:13-15)

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Teaching Resources

[Bible Project video: 1 Thessalonians Overview](#)

[Bible Project video: 2 Thessalonians Overview](#)

[Capitol Hill Baptist Church Core Seminar: NT Overview](#)

[hESV Study Bible: Introduction to 1 Thessalonians](#)

[ESV Study Bible: Introduction to 2 Thessalonians](#)