



1 Thessalonians: *Living in Light of Christ's Return*

Introduction

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The Specs

- Who wrote it?
- When was it written?

Historical Background

❖ **Acts 17:1-10**

1. While we are all quite aware that Paul was indeed the...

❖ 1 Corinthians 11:13—*apostle to the Gentiles*

Here in Acts 17 we see Paul's heart for his own Jewish people.

2. Paul's ministry in Thessalonica only lasted about three weeks
3. Paul's ministry in Thessalonica was expository
4. Paul's ministry in Thessalonica was very fruitful
5. Paul's ministry in Thessalonica was forcefully opposed.

Outline of 1 Thessalonians

I. Paul's past ministry to the Thessalonians

❖ **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10—**

1. Paul gives thanks for the assurance of their election/salvation
2. Paul gives thanks for how powerfully the Lord worked in their lives
3. Paul gives thanks for their humble, teachable spirits
4. Paul gives thanks for their perseverance through persecution
5. Paul gives thanks that their lives have become a testimony through the region

❖ **1 Thessalonians 2:1-16**

❖ **1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13**



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II. Paul's Education and Exhortation for the Thessalonians

❖ **1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**

1. Live for the glory of God/for his pleasure
2. Live free of sexual immorality
3. Live just lives towards one another, brotherly love
4. Live respectable lives

❖ **1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11**

- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17— *we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*

❖ **1 Thessalonians 5:12-28**

- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22— *And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.*

The Message of 1 Thessalonians

- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 1:9— *For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come*
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 2:19— *For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?*
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13— *Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.*
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:23— *Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Paul's goal in writing this letter was that the Thessalonians would have a *better understanding of Christ's return and would live a holy life in light of his coming.*