

INTRODUCTION TO
1 Thessalonians

READ ALONG

☐ 06/15-16 1 Thes. 1-5

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 49. EPHESIANS
- 50. PHILIPPIANS
- 51. COLOSSIANS
- 52. **1 THESSALONIANS**
- 53. 2 THESSALONIANS
- 54. 1 TIMOTHY
- 55. 2 TIMOTHY

KEY VERSE

1 Thessalonians 2:8, *“We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.”*

KEY THEME

1. Paul’s pastoral love for them is motivation for exhortation (1:8, 3:1-5, 3:11-12)
2. Paul gives clear instructions on how one ought to live
 - a. 4:3-8 – sexual purity
 - b. 4:9-12 – brotherly love as a testimony of the Gospel
 - c. 4:13-5:11 – knowledge and encouragement about Jesus’ return in relation to living and dead
 - d. 5:12-22 – relational issues in the church
3. Paul instructs believers about death and the 2nd coming of Jesus. It is mentioned in every chapter and then Paul addresses it in 4:13-5:11.

BOOK BASICS



DATE
AD 50-51



TYPE
Epistle



AUTHOR
Paul+

Paul, along with Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy wrote 1 Thessalonians.

Paul visited Thessalonica—the capital city of the Roman Province of Macedonia—on his 2nd missionary journey and after seeing a church established was run out of the town by fierce Jewish opposition (cf. Acts 17:1-10). Unable to pay a return visit in the short term he had sent Timothy to find out how they were. Now at Corinth with Timothy and Silas he writes his first letter to them to encourage the church and address some concerns reported to Paul by Timothy (3:1-5).

PURPOSE:

1. Encourage them and affirm their faith. Paul’s desire is for the Thessalonian believers not be shaken by affliction and persecution.
2. Vindicate Paul’s ministry – Paul wants to make sure they know his ministry was from a pure love and Paul refutes any attack on his motives as impure.
3. Correct misunderstandings about eschatology – Paul mentions Jesus’ return in every chapter of this book.
4. Address some moral and practical matters – He reminds them that their sanctification is God’s will (cf. 4:3)

BASIC STRUCTURE

14 CHAPTERS

