



## Lesson 24 – The Thessalonian Letters

Based on the Epistles to the Thessalonians

The Apostle Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians while in Corinth, likely around A.D. 50–51 during his second missionary journey. He had recently left Thessalonica due to persecution and, while staying in Corinth for 18 months, received a report from Timothy that prompted him to write this encouraging letter.

1) How does 1 Thessalonians begin?

**1 Thessalonians 1:1** Paul, and \_\_\_\_\_, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Silvanus here is Silas. Silas is the Greek or Aramaic name used primarily in the Book of Acts, while Silvanus is the Latin form used by Paul in his letters.

2) What news had Timothy and Silas brought Paul?

**1 Thessalonians 3:6** But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:

They brought him “*good tidings*” of the “*faith and charity*” of those who had accepted the truth during the first visit of the gospel messengers to Thessalonica. Paul’s heart went out in tender sympathy toward these believers, who, in the midst of trial and adversity, had remained true to God. He longed to visit them in person, but as this was not then possible, he wrote to them.

3) What joy did Paul express to the believers in Thessalonica?

**1 Thessalonians 3:7** Therefore, brethren, we were \_\_\_\_\_ over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:

4) What was Paul doing for them?

**1 Thessalonians 3:10** Night and day \_\_\_\_\_ exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

**1 Thessalonians 1:2-3** We give \_\_\_\_\_ to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; \_\_\_\_\_ without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

5) What had they done?

**1 Thessalonians 1:6-7** And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having \_\_\_\_\_ the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were \_\_\_\_\_ to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

6) What effect did this have?

**1 Thessalonians 1:8** For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in \_\_\_\_\_ your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

The Thessalonian believers were true missionaries. Their hearts burned with zeal for their Saviour, who had delivered them from fear of “the wrath to come.” Through the grace of Christ, a marvelous transformation had taken place in their lives, and the word of the Lord, as spoken through them, was accompanied with power. Hearts were won by the truths presented, and souls were added to the number of believers.

7) What manner of teaching did Paul use while he was there?

**1 Thessalonians 2:4-5** But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing \_\_\_\_\_, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we \_\_\_\_\_ words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:



**1 Thessalonians 2:6-7** Nor of men sought we \_\_\_\_\_, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. But we were \_\_\_\_\_ among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

**1 Thessalonians 2:8** So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were \_\_\_\_\_ unto us.

8) What did he add to that?

**1 Thessalonians 2:10-11** Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that \_\_\_\_\_: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a \_\_\_\_\_ doth his children,

9) Why?

**1 Thessalonians 2:12** That ye would \_\_\_\_\_ worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

10) What was Paul's hope (and ours)?

**1 Thessalonians 2:19** For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

The Apostle needed to correct some errant beliefs in the people that he loved so much.

11) What was one of those beliefs?

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-14** But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye \_\_\_\_\_, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus will God bring with him.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** For the Lord himself shall \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we \_\_\_\_\_ be with the Lord.

The Thessalonians had eagerly grasped the idea that Christ was coming to change the faithful who were alive, and to take them to Himself. They had carefully guarded the lives of their friends, lest they should die and lose the blessing which they looked forward to receiving at the coming of their Lord. But one after another their loved ones had been taken from them, and with anguish the Thessalonians had looked for the last time upon the faces of their dead, hardly daring to hope to meet them in a future life.

The hope and joy that this assurance brought to the young church at Thessalonica can scarcely be appreciated by us. They believed and cherished the letter sent to them by their father in the gospel, and their hearts went out in love to him. He had told them these things before; but at that time their minds were striving to grasp doctrines that seemed new and strange, and it is not surprising that the force of some points had not been vividly impressed on their minds. But they were hungering for truth, and Paul's epistle gave them new hope and strength, and a firmer faith in, and a deeper affection for, the One who through His death had brought life and immortality to light.

12) What words of Paul often get misinterpreted?

**1 Thessalonians 4:14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Many interpret this passage to mean that the sleeping ones will be brought with Christ from heaven; but Paul meant that as Christ was raised from the dead, so God will call the sleeping saints from their graves and take them with Him to heaven. Precious consolation! glorious hope! not only to the church of Thessalonica, but to all Christians wherever they may be.



13) What else did Paul point out the believers there?

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-2** But of the \_\_\_\_\_ and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a \_\_\_\_\_ in the night.

There are in the world today many who close their eyes to the evidences that Christ has given to warn men of His coming. They seek to quiet all apprehension, while at the same time the signs of the end are rapidly fulfilling, and the world is hastening to the time when the Son of man shall be revealed in the clouds of heaven. Paul teaches that it is sinful to be indifferent to the signs which are to precede the second coming of Christ.

14) How should we be?

**1 Thessalonians 5:8-9** But let us, who are of the day, be \_\_\_\_\_, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of \_\_\_\_\_. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in \_\_\_\_\_ for their work's sake. And be at \_\_\_\_\_ among yourselves.

15) What was troubling to the Thessalonians?

**2 Thessalonians 3:11-12** For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are \_\_\_\_\_. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with \_\_\_\_\_ they work, and eat their own bread.

16) What did Paul tell them to do?

**1 Thessalonians 4:1** Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ God, so ye would abound more and more.

In his anxiety that the believers at Thessalonica should walk in the fear of God, the apostle pleaded with them to reveal practical godliness in the daily life.

The apostle felt that he was to a large extent responsible for the spiritual welfare of those converted under his labors. His desire for them was that they might increase in a knowledge of the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom He had sent. Often in his ministry he would meet with little companies of men and women who loved Jesus, and bow with them in prayer, asking God to teach them how to maintain a living connection with Him. Often, he took counsel with them as to the best methods of giving to others the light of gospel truth. And often, when separated from those for whom he had thus labored, he pleaded with God to keep them from evil and help them to be earnest, active missionaries.

17) What is one of the indicators of God's indwelling love?

**1 Thessalonians 4:9** But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

One of the strongest evidences of true conversion is love to God and man. Those who accept Jesus as their Redeemer have a deep, sincere love for others of like precious faith. Thus, it was with the believers at Thessalonica.

18) What does love include?

**1 Thessalonians 5:14-15** Now we exhort you, brethren, \_\_\_\_\_ them that are unruly, \_\_\_\_\_ the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render \_\_\_\_\_ for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

19) What else should we be aware of?

**1 Thessalonians 5:19-22** Quench not the \_\_\_\_\_. Despise not prophesyings. \_\_\_\_\_ all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all \_\_\_\_\_ of evil.



The instruction that Paul sent the Thessalonians in his first epistle regarding the second coming of Christ, was in perfect harmony with his former teaching. Yet his words were misapprehended by some of the Thessalonian brethren. They understood him to express the hope that he himself would live to witness the Saviour's advent. This belief served to increase their enthusiasm and excitement. Those who had previously neglected their responsibilities and duties, now became more persistent in urging their erroneous views.

20) What did Paul say about the church in Thessalonica to others?

**2 Thessalonians 1:4** So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your \_\_\_\_\_ and faith in all your \_\_\_\_\_ and tribulations that ye endure:

He told them that he presented them to other churches as an example of the patient, persevering faith that bravely withstands persecution and tribulation, and he carried their minds forward to the time of the second coming of Christ, when the people of God shall rest from all their cares and perplexities.

21) What did he say to the despairing because of the wickedness surrounding them?

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In \_\_\_\_\_ taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting \_\_\_\_\_ from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

**2 Thessalonians 1:11-12** Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this \_\_\_\_\_, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in \_\_\_\_\_, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

22) What words of warning did Paul give them (and us)?

**2 Thessalonians 2:2-4** That ye be not soon \_\_\_\_\_ in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man \_\_\_\_\_ you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be \_\_\_\_\_, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as \_\_\_\_\_ sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

The apostle therefore cautioned the brethren to receive no such message as coming from him that Jesus was returning in Paul's time, and he proceeded to emphasize the fact that the papal power, so clearly described by the prophet Daniel, was yet to rise and wage war against God's people. Until this power should have performed its deadly and blasphemous work, it would be in vain for the church to look for the coming of their Lord.

23) What was brewing as Paul spoke these warnings?

**2 Thessalonians 2:7** For the mystery of \_\_\_\_\_ doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

24) How will this present itself?

**2 Thessalonians 2:9-10** Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying \_\_\_\_\_, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the \_\_\_\_\_, that they might be saved.

25) What follows?

**2 Thessalonians 2:11-12** And for this cause God shall send them strong \_\_\_\_\_, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in \_\_\_\_\_.

Men cannot with impunity reject the warnings that God in mercy sends them. From those who persist in turning from these warnings, God withdraws His Spirit, leaving them to the deceptions that they love.



26) What counsel did Paul leave them with?

**2 Thessalonians 15-16** Therefore, brethren, \_\_\_\_\_, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good \_\_\_\_\_ through grace,

The work of the believers had been given them by God. By their faithful adherence to the truth, they were to give to others the light which they had received. The apostle bade them not to become weary in well-doing and pointed them to his own example of diligence in temporal matters while laboring with untiring zeal in the cause of Christ.

**Can you see that God  
wants you to prosper?**

**Do you want to be able to  
see Jesus when He  
returns?**

**When is the time to step  
up and be counted  
worthy?**