



# 1 Thessalonians 1 – 3



# Written by Paul

- A. After Galatians (2<sup>nd</sup> book)
- B. During his 2nd missionary journey
- C. While he was in Corinth (1 Cor. 18:11)
- D. Against the backdrop of Acts 17:1-15



# A Major Theme of the Book

Living in the light of the coming of  
the Lord (1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:13-18,  
5:2-3 – every chapter)



# Key Verses

“For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)





# Purpose

- A. Personal: Encourage the Thessalonians and defend his apostleship
  
- B. Practical: Instruct them on how to live in light of Christ's return



# Outline of the Book

- A. Personal Reflections in Light of Paul's Visit  
(1 Thessalonians 1 – 3)
  
- B. Practical Instructions in Light of Christ's  
Return (1 Thessalonians 4 – 5)



# 1 Thessalonians 1 – 3

## 1. Paul's Gratitude for the Thessalonians' Exemplary Faith (1:1-10)

- Before God (1:1-3)
- Before Man (1:4-10)



# 1 Thessalonians 1 – 3

The question is not whether we are setting an example, but what kind of an example we are setting?



# 1 Thessalonians 1 – 3

“You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.” (1 Thessalonians 1:6-8)





# 1 Thessalonians 1 – 3

2. A Defense of Paul's Ministry While in Thessalonica (2:1-12)
  - A. Boldness despite opposition (2:1-2)
  - B. Integrity despite temptation (2:3-6)
  - C. Devotion despite the sacrifice (2:7-8)
  - D. Perseverance despite fatigue (2:9-12)



# 1 Thessalonians 1 – 3

Truth + Love = A Life of Impact



# 1 Thessalonians 1 – 3

“Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become so dear to us.”

(1 Thessalonians 2:8)



# 1 Thessalonians 1 – 3

## 3. The Thessalonians' Conversion and Persecution (2:13-16)

A. Accepted God's Word and imitated God's people (2:13-14a)

B. Persecuted by their own countrymen (2:14b-16)



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4. Paul's Desire to Revisit the Thessalonians (2:17-3:10)
  - A. Thwarted by Satan (2:17-20)
  - B. Timothy's visit (3:1-5)
  - C. Timothy's report (3:6-10)



# 1 Thessalonians 1 – 3

## 5. Paul's Prayer for the Thessalonians (3:11-13)

A. To reunite them (3:11)

B. To grow their love for others (3:12-13)



# Challenge

- A. “For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?” (2:19)
- B. Who in your life can you begin to invest in such a way that they will one day be your crown of exultation? What can you learn from Paul’s example in 2:1-12? What steps do you need to take to make a difference?