



1 Thessalonians: A Model Church



Thessalonica

1. The most prominent city of Macedonia with perhaps up to 200,000 in the metroplex.
2. A city of Greek culture but Roman loyalty. Many retired military and government officials retired there.
3. Located on a major north/south trade route, with an excellent harbor and access to the Aegean.

The Church Plant

(Acts 17:1-9)

1. Paul started the church in a synagogue on his second missionary journey.
2. The church started with the proclamation of Jesus' death and resurrection and declaration that, "Jesus is the Christ."
3. Initial converts are Jewish, Gentiles, & prominent women.
4. Some jealous Jews leaders started a riot and ran Paul out of town after a short season of ministry.
5. Paul & Silas escape in the middle of the night to Berea (17:10).
6. Thessalonian Jews pursue him to Berea and stir up the city (17:13).
7. Timothy is sent to encourage the church (3:2) and brings back a good report about them (3:6).

The Return of Christ

(Thematic End of Each Chapter)

- Ch. 1 - Waiting for His Coming
- Ch. 2 - Reward at His Coming
- Ch. 3 - Comfort at His Coming
- Ch. 4 - Reunion at His Coming
- Ch. 5 - Complete at His Coming

		Personal Paul and the Thessalonians		Practical Christ and the Thessalonians	
	Epistolary Prescript: Salutation and Greeting	Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians Church Summary (before God): Growing in Faith, Hope, and Love (1:2-3) <small>(ENERGETIC WORK OF FAITH-STRENUOUS LABOR OF LOVE-STEADFAST ENDURANCE OF HOPE)</small> Details (before Men): A Model for Other Churches (1:4-10) The Gospel came with power and conviction (1:4-5). The Gospel was received with joy (1:6). The church became a model for churches in Macedonia and Achaia (1:7). The testimony of their conversion and faith spread (1:8-10).		Paul's Instructions for the Thessalonians Church (The Second Coming as a Motivation for Sanctification) Relationships in Christian Community (4:1-12) • Continued Growth (4:1-2) • Sexual Purity (4:3-8) • Brotherly Love (4:9-12) The Imminent Return of Christ as an Encouragement (4:13-5:11) • Rapture and Resurrection (4:13-18) • Delivered from God's Wrath (5:1-11) Relationships in the Congregation (5:12-22) • Respect and Honor Leaders (5:12-13) • Warn and Restore the Weak (5:13-14) • Respect God (5:16-18) • Do not Quench the Holy Spirit (5:19-22)	
	1:1	1:2	AFFIRMATION	1:10	2:1
	2:1	Paul's Relationship with the Thessalonians Church Paul's Defense of His Apostleship and Ministry (2:1-12) Paul came in spite of opposition and persecution (2:1-2). Paul's motives were pure and godly (2:3-4). Paul's methods were straightforward and like a gentle mother (2:5-9). Paul's tactics were purposeful like a caring father (2:10-12). Main Idea: Live lives worthy of God! (2:10-12) Paul's Thanksgiving for their Reception of the Gospel (2:13-16) They received the gospel message from God (2:13-14a). They endured persecution from others (2:14b-16). Paul's Plans to Visit the Thessalonians (2:17-3:13) Hindrance: The Desire of Paul and Opposition of Satan (2:17-20) Concern: The Visit of Timothy (3:1-5) Report: Timothy's Report on their Strong Faith (3:6-10) Blessing: Growing Love and Deepening Hope (3:11-13)		3:13	4:1
	3:13	ENCOURAGEMENT		4:1	CHALLENGE
	4:1	Thanksgiving		5:22	5:23-24
	5:22	History		5:25-28	Exhortation
Prescript	Exordium Engendering Goodwill		Narratio Narration of Background		Exhortatio Application to Life
Paul, writing out of intense concern for a young church in a hostile environment, affirmed them and encouraged them by explaining his desire to see them after he had been run out of town soon after the church started and clarifying details concerning the return of the Lord as a way of admonishing them to continue to press on to maturity by growing more and more in their energetic work of faith, arduous labor of love and patient endurance of hope.					