

# 1 and 2 Thessalonians

The goal of this Bible Class is to give the students a working knowledge of the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians. It is based on an expository approach to teaching the Bible, preparing the students for the worship of our Savior. The material in the lesson is to be viewed by the teacher as thematic suggestions to help with preparation. While the lesson is not intended to be read to the class word for word, the main ideas should be the substance of what is taught. The teacher, in preparation for the class, should consider reading through the whole curriculum before beginning the class, as well as the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians several times. This will provide the instructor with a broad and comprehensive understanding of the book as it is being taught.

It is important that the instructor be not only knowledgeable about the material, but also able to teach it with enthusiasm and conviction. Students best learn from teachers that are themselves excited about the scriptures. The use of maps, diagrams, white boards etc. is extremely helpful. Some of these have been provided in the curriculum. It is suggested that the class be conducted in an interactive manner. This can be accomplished by having them read short portions of the scripture texts, asking them questions, and wholeheartedly encouraging them to ask questions. All students should be encouraged to bring a Bible to class.

The inclusion of the Westminster Shorter Catechism as part of the curriculum is designed to help the students acquire a broad understanding of Christian doctrine along with the specific Bible teaching. The Elders of the church will coordinate the specific questions and answers to be used in the class.

It will become evident to the teacher that this course curriculum, while not dealing with every verse and concept in the books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, is comprehensive and deeply theological. It is designed to help the students understand the book in their wider biblical context, with emphasis on its place in the redemptive history of God's covenant people. The students will be confronted with and asked to understand and remember fairly difficult concepts. It should be remembered that children are able to comprehend much more than we often give them credit for. While this class will be a challenge for both the teacher and the students, the rewards for the efforts of those in the class will be surprising and exciting.

In preparation for these lessons, it would also be helpful to consult some of the following:

**Bailey, Robert Arthur**, *The Structure of Paul's Letters* (Xulon Press, 2004)

**Henry, Matthew**, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*, (Peabody, MS, Hendrickson Publishers, 1991)

**Mahan, Henry T.**, *Bible Class Commentary – 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy* (Welwyn, England, Evangelical Press, 1984)

**Wright, N.T.**, *Paul for Everyone – Galatians and Thessalonians*, (Louisville, KY, Westminster John Knox Press. 2002)

# 1 and 2 Thessalonians – Thanksgiving and Future Hope

## Lesson 1 – Introduction and 1 Thessalonians 1-2

### Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense

❖ **Greetings** – Pray with the students for the Lord’s blessing on their class

#### ❖ **Attendance and Accountability**

Introduce yourself

Introduce your substitute teacher

The teacher is asked to take attendance at the beginning of each class period in order to provide encouragement and extra help to students when they miss a class.

Make sure all class members know each other’s **names**.

**Requirements** – Writing utensils, Bibles, a good night’s sleep

❖ **Westminster Shorter Catechism** – Briefly go over the question(s) and answer(s) for this quarter.

#### ❖ **Memory verses**

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 – And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 – Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power.

#### ❖ **Lesson – Introduction and 1 Thessalonians 1-2**

##### ***1. Introduction to 1 and 2 Thessalonians***

**A. Authorship** – **Paul** is identified as the primary author in 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and 2 Thessalonians 1:1, writing on behalf of Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy.

**B. Audience** – 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and 2 Thessalonians 1:1 identify “the **church of the Thessalonians** in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” as the recipients of this letter

**C. Date / Place** – The time and place for the writing of 1 Thessalonians are uncertain but it was likely written from **Corinth** sometime around **50 A.D.** 1 Thessalonians is considered by many Bible scholars to be the **earliest of Paul’s epistles**. 2 Thessalonians was likely written within a year or two of 1 Thessalonians.

**D. Historical Context (Have the students turn to Acts 16-17 and to the map at the end of this lesson)** – While on his second missionary journey with Silas and Timothy, Paul desired to preach the word in Asia but was forbidden to do so by the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6). Instead, Paul received a night vision of a man from Macedonia pleading with him saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us” (Acts 16:9). Paul first visited Thessalonica (a city in

Macedonia) after he and Silas were released from prison in Philippi. (Acts 17). For at least three Sabbath days (three weeks), Paul reasoned in the synagogue with those present, and many believed the gospel (Acts 17:2-4). However, the leading Jews of Thessalonica stirred up trouble against Paul and his companions and they had to flee by night to Berea. After ministering there, Paul was escorted by the Bereans to Athens while Silas and Timothy stayed behind. (Acts 17:14-15a). Paul then sent for Silas and Timothy (Acts 17:15b) and they joined him in Corinth (Acts 18:5). According to 1 Thessalonians 3, when he heard of the afflictions of the Thessalonian church, Paul sent Timothy back to visit the saints there in order to “establish” them and to “encourage (them) in the faith” (1 Thessalonians 3:2). Timothy’s return to Paul in Corinth, with his report on the state of the Thessalonian church, is what prompted Paul to write his first letter to them. Further concerns for the state there prompted Paul to write a second letter to them.

**E. Geographical Context** – Thessalonica, named after the step-sister of Alexander the Great, was the **capital of the Roman province of Macedonia** (see map). Thessalonica stood on the *Via Egnatia*, the Roman highway to the East and it had a good natural harbor as well. This made Thessalonica a center for travelers and merchants and it was home to a mixed population of Greeks, Jews, and foreign Gentiles.

## **II. 1 Thessalonians 1-2 – Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense**

### **A. Paul’s Purpose for Writing 1 Thessalonians**

Timothy has returned to Paul in Corinth with a report on the state of the young Thessalonian church. Timothy has found the Thessalonians to be living godly lives of faith in Jesus with great love for the saints in the midst of persecution. Paul tells them that there is a judgment coming on those who killed Jesus and who are now mistreating His people, both in Thessalonica and elsewhere. He praises them for their faithfulness and assure them that they will be delivered from the wrath of God that is coming. Paul tells them that they have a glorious future in the Lord, and exhorts them to continue their walks of obedience and love.

**B. Outline of 1 Thessalonians** - For the purposes of our study, we will use a simple outline for the book:

Chapters 1-2 – Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense

Chapter 3 – Timothy’s Good Report

Chapters 4-5 – Paul’s Commands, Thessalonians’ Future Hope and Present Duties

### **C. Chapter 1 – Paul’s greetings and praise**

**1. Greetings** - Paul, along with Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy addresses this letter to the “church of the Thessalonians and greets them in the manner typical of Paul’s epistles: “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”. (See also Romans 1:7, 1 Corinthians 1:3, and 2 Corinthians 1:2 for other examples) **Peace** with God is a result of His **grace** in showing mercy to us and drawing us near to Himself.

**2. Praise** - Paul begins his letter to the young Thessalonian Christians by encouraging them in a number of ways (**Have the students look through verses 2-4 and list Paul’s encouragements**):

- a. Thanking God for them – verse 2a
- b. Praying for them – verse 2b
- c. Remembering their faith, hope and love – verse 3 – This reminds us of 1 Corinthians 13 where faith, hope, and love are put forth by Paul as the foremost of Christian virtues.
- d. Assuring them of their sovereign election by God to salvation and of the fact that they are his “beloved brethren in the Lord” – verse 4

We too ought to encourage one another in our faith in the Lord Jesus in these same four ways: **Thanking, Praying, Remembering, and Assuring.**

Paul then goes on in verses 5-10 to give evidence of the Thessalonians’ election to faith in Jesus:

- a. **Heard** – They heard gospel as it was preached to them by Paul and his friends and was accompanied by the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit – Verse 5  
Paul will remind them of this again in 2:13
- b. **Received** - They joyfully received the Word as it was preached to them by Paul and his friends and became followers of the disciples and of the Lord, despite persecutions – Verse 6
- c. **Lived** - They immediately began living the Christian life, becoming examples to those in Macedonia and Achaia – Verse 7
- d. **Preached** - They preached the word to others – Verse 8

This is an excellent example of the effect that the gospel of faith in Jesus ought to have in the lives of those He calls to Himself: **Hear → Receive/Believe → Live → Preach**

In summary, Paul says that the Thessalonians turned from their idol worship to “serve the living and true God” (verse 9b).

In verse 10, Paul hints of a godly “wrath to come” on those who killed Jesus and are now persecuting His saints. He will speak of this again in 2:14-16 and 5:1-11, assuring the Thessalonians that they will be delivered from this wrath.

Through all of this, Paul not only wants to encourage the Thessalonian Christians, but also to remind them of the godly way in which he and his friends conducted themselves during their ministry in Thessalonica (see verses 5b, and 9a). Paul will enter into a fuller defense of his ministry in chapter 2.

#### **D. Chapter 2:1-12 – Paul’s defense of his ministry**

Apparently there were men in Thessalonica who were trying to discredit Paul and his friends in the eyes of the Thessalonian Christians, much as the Jews had done to the new Christians in Judea (see 2:14). Paul will spend half of Chapter 2 defending his ministry and that of his fellow laborers who brought the gospel to the Thessalonians.

What you are willing to suffer for tells a lot about what you are genuinely committed to. Early believers in Jesus (as the Messiah) were subject to persecution, both from the Jews who crucified Jesus, as well as the Romans, who considered Christians a threat to the peace of the empire and to the worship of the gods (including the emperor himself). Knowing that the

Thessalonian Christians have already suffered persecution for their new-found faith in Jesus (see 2:14-16), Paul's first defense to them is that he and his friends too have been willingly subject to persecution for the sake of the gospel. As Acts 16:11-40 tells us, prior to coming to Thessalonica, Paul and Silas had been beaten and imprisoned in Philippi for their preaching and for delivering a young girl from a demonic spirit. In spite of this persecution, they were still bold in their preaching to the Thessalonians.

In verses 3-6, Paul reminds the Thessalonians of what was **not** true of their ministry among them (**Ask the students to try and name these five**):

- a. Their teaching did not come from error, or uncleanness, or from deceit – verse 3
- b. They did not speak in order to please men – Verse 4
- c. They did not use flattering words – Verse 5a
- d. They did not preach the Word in order to get something from the Thessalonians – Verse 5b
- e. They did not seek glory or honor from men – Verse 6

On the other hand, in verses 7-12, Paul gives a list of the **positive** ways that he and his friends ministered to the Thessalonians (**Ask the students to try and name as many of these as possible**):

- a. They were **gentle** among them, like a mother is to her children – Verse 7
- b. They **loved** them – Verse 8
- c. They were **hard working**, not relying on the Thessalonians for financial support – Verse 9
- d. They were **devout** – Verse 10
- e. They were **just** – Verse 10
- f. They were **blameless** – Verse 10
- g. They **exhorted, comforted, and charged** (implored) them like a father does his children – Verse 11

Verses 1-11 of Chapter 2 are a wonderful example of how those in positions of authority (parents, pastors, teachers, employers, etc.) ought to behave towards those under their charge, treating them as their beloved children in the Lord!

The ultimate goal of the ministry of Paul and his friends to the Thessalonians is that they “would walk worthy of God who (called them) into His own kingdom and glory” - Verse 12. The Christian life is not just a matter of going to church on Sundays, but the bringing every facet of our lives (marriage and family, business, education, politics, entertainment, recreation, etc.) into subjection to Jesus Christ through obedience to His Word.

## **E. Chapter 2:13-20 – Paul's praise and longing**

### 1. 2:13-16 - Paul's thanksgiving

Just as they thanked God for the faith, love and hope of the Thessalonian Christians in 1:2-3, so now Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy thank the Lord that the Thessalonians received the preached Word, not as the word of men, but as the Word of God (verse 13). The evidence of this is that the Thessalonians were willing to suffer persecution from their Gentile neighbors for their new-found belief in Jesus, much as the new Christians in Judea had from the Jews

(verses 14-15). Suffering for the sake of the gospel is never easy, but it does indeed validate that the Holy Spirit is at work, strengthening the believers, and convicting the unbelievers. It is the Jews who put Jesus to death. This evil deed, along with their persecution of the early Christians, will “fill up the measure of their sins” and result in the wrath of God being poured out in judgment upon them. This reminds us of how the sins of the pagan Caananite nations in the Promised Land became “full” prior to the Lord bringing His wrath upon them by using the Israelites under Joshua to defeat them (see Genesis 15:16). This time the “wrath” of God upon the Jews, spoken of by Paul in verse 16 of this chapter (see also 1:10 and 5:1-11), will come in the form of the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans in 70 A.D.

## 2. 2:17-20 - Paul’s longing

As we remember from Acts 17:1-15, after preaching the gospel and winning many converts in Thessalonica, Paul and Silas were forced to flee from there in the face of persecution from the Thessalonian Jews. Not only that, but these same Jews followed Paul and Silas to Berea and stirred up problems for them there as well forcing Paul to flee to Athens.

Knowing that they were suffering for their faith in his absence, Paul has had a deep desire to return to Thessalonica to encourage and strengthen to these new brothers and sisters in the Lord. He expresses this in verses 17-20 in emotional terms (**Have a student read these verses**):

- His heart is still with them - Verse 17a
- He has tried eagerly to see them with great desire – Verse 17b
- He wants to see them, but Satan (working through the Jews) has hindered him – Verse 18
- They are Paul’s hope, joy, crown of rejoicing and glory – Verses 19-20

Indeed Paul considers these new Thessalonian Christians to be his own spiritual children, and he loves them as much as any father does his earthly sons and daughters!

God, in His sovereign and good plan, did not see fit to allow Paul to visit the Thessalonians himself at this time. Instead, Paul eventually sent Timothy to Thessalonica to encourage the saints there and to bring a report of their spiritual condition back to Paul, which will be the subject of Chapter 3.

We too should strive to live faithful, joyful Christian lives, even in the face of hardship or persecution knowing that, if we persevere, our praise will come from God Himself!

❖ **Homework** – Read the entire book of 1 Thessalonians once and read chapters 3-5 at least twice. Work on memorizing 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, 2 Thessalonians 1:11, the outline, and the Westminster Shorter Catechism questions and answers

❖ **Prayer / Prep for Worship**

**1 and 2 Thessalonians – Thanksgiving and Future Hope**  
**Lesson 2 – 1 Thessalonians Chapters 3-5**  
**Timothy’s Good Report**  
**Paul’s Commands, Thessalonians’ Future Hope and Present Duties**

❖ **Greetings** – Pray with the students for the Lord’s blessing on their class this term

❖ **Attendance and Accountability**

❖ **Westminster Shorter Catechism** – Briefly go over the question(s) and answer(s) for this quarter.

❖ **Memory verses**

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 – And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 – Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power.

❖ **Outline of 1 Thessalonians – Review this with the students**

Chapters 1-2 – Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense

Chapter 3 – Timothy’s Good Report

Chapters 4-5 – Paul’s Commands, Thessalonians’ Future Hope and Present Duties

❖ **Review – Ask the students the following questions as a means of reviewing Lesson 1**

- Who wrote 1 Thessalonians? (**Paul**)
- Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? (**Corinth, likely**)
- When did Paul write this letter (**around 50 A.D.**)
- **True** or False – 1 Thessalonians is likely Paul’s first epistle
- Who did Paul send to Thessalonica to encourage the saints there and to bring a report back to him as to their spiritual condition? (**Timothy**)

**Have the students turn to 1 Thessalonians 1 and look for answers to the following:**

- What familiar greeting does Paul give the Thessalonians in verse 1? (“Grace to you and peace...”)
- In verse 3 what three things does Paul remember about the Thessalonians? (Their faith, love and hope – c.f. 1 Corinthians 13:13)
- In verses 5-8, what evidences does Paul give of the Thessalonians’ faith in Jesus?
  - Verse 5 – They **heard** the preaching of the gospel
  - Verse 6 – They **received** the Word as it was preached to them
  - Verse 7 – They **lived** the Word by becoming examples to those in Macedonia and Achaia
  - Verse 8 – They **preached** the Word

**Have the students turn to 1 Thessalonians 2 and look for answers to the following:**

- True or **False** – According to verses 1-2 Paul and his friends had never suffered persecution themselves
- Look at verses 3-6 and name some things that were **not** true of the ministry of Paul and his friends among the Thessalonians:
  - (a. Their teaching did not come from error, or uncleanness, or from deceit – verse 3
  - b. They did not speak in order to please men – Verse 4
  - c. They did not use flattering words – Verse 5a
  - d. They did not preach the Word in order to get something from the Thessalonians – Verse 5b
  - e. They did not seek glory or honor from men – Verse 6)
- Look at verses 7-12 and name some **positive** ways that Paul and his friends ministered to the Thessalonians
  - (a. They were **gentle** among them, like a mother is to her children – Verse 7
  - b. They **loved** them – Verse 8
  - c. They were **hard working**, not relying on the Thessalonians for financial support – Verse 9
  - d. They were **devout** – Verse 10
  - e. They were **just** – Verse 10
  - f. They were **blameless** – Verse 10
  - g. They **exhorted, comforted, and charged** (implored) them like a father does his children - Verse 11)
- In verse 13, what does Paul again thank God for regarding the Thessalonians? (They received the preached Word as from God, and not from men)
- In verse 14, what evidence does Paul give of this? (They were willing to suffer persecution)
- **True** or **False** – In verses 17-19 Paul says that he has been longing to see the Thessalonians but has been hindered from doing so

**❖ Lesson – 1 Thessalonians Chapters 3-5**

**A. Chapter 3 – Timothy’s Good Report**

While he was with them, Paul had warned the Thessalonian church that they were bound to face persecution (see verses 3-4; c.f. John 15:20, 2 Timothy 3:12) but he also knows that his warning might not be enough to fully prepare them for the hardships to come.

Verse 5 tells us that Paul was concerned that perhaps Satan, who had hindered him from going to them (see 2:18), had also used these hardships to tempt them to abandon their faith in Jesus. Paul is a true spiritual father worrying for the wellbeing of his “children”! And so, Paul says that he sent Timothy to them “to establish (them) and to encourage (them) concerning (their) faith” (3:2). (Note - Paul was in Athens when he sent Timothy to them (see 3:1), but he is likely in Corinth at the time of the writing of this letter.)

In Verses 6-10, we learn that Paul and his friends need not have worried about the state of the Thessalonian church. **(Have a student read verses 6-10).** Timothy has brought them “good



news” (literally, “gospel”) that not only did the faith of the Thessalonian Christians still abound, but so did their love for one another and for Paul and his companions. This news is very encouraging for Paul, especially in the face of his own troubles (see verse 7). One of the great joys for Christian parents is seeing their children living lives of faith in the Lord and in love for each other. In a sense, parents “live” through the successful lives of their children and this is how Paul phrases his joy in verse 8. In response to this good news, Paul again thanks God for the Thessalonians and rejoices in their spiritual health (**Thanksgiving is a recurring theme of 1 Thessalonians. Ask the students if they can find two instances of this that we have seen so far - 1:3 and 2:13**). He also assures them that he and his friends pray for them fervently and often (verse 10) as he will demonstrate in verses 11-13.

Out of his great joy at learning of the faithfulness of the young Thessalonian Christians, Paul ends this chapter with a wonderful prayer of benediction (good word) for them. **Have a student read verses 11-13.**

Paul prays:

- 1) That he and his friends might be able to see them again – Verse 11
- 2) That the Thessalonians might increase and abound in their love for each other – Verse 12
- 3) That the Thessalonians might live holy lives in the face of the coming judgment of God – Verse 13. (Note - The phrase “at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints” likely refers back to Zechariah 14:5 and this chapter speaks of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.)

In chapter 4, Paul will explain what a holy life of obedience to Jesus looks like.

## **B. Chapter 4:1-12 – Paul’s Commands**

Chapter 4 begins the conclusion of Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians (“Finally then, brethren...” – Verse 1). To this point in his letter, Paul’s main theme has been to praise the Thessalonians and to thank God for their steadfast faith, love and obedience. Paul will now spend the first twelve verses of chapter 4 reminding the Thessalonian Christians of the commands he gave them regarding how to live holy lives of obedience to God.

### **Have a student read verses 1-12**

The life of every Christian ought to be marked by increasing holiness and obedience to the Lord as revealed in His Word. In verses 1 and 2 Paul urges and exhorts the Thessalonian Christians to “abound more and more” in their God-pleasing lives

- 1) Sexual purity – Verses 3-8 – Sexual sin is one of the most common and damaging sins in the life of Christians. The Thessalonians lived in the midst of a morally corrupt culture and this was especially evident in the sexual perversion that took place in and around the pagan temples. Before coming to faith in Jesus, at least some of the Thessalonian Christians had likely participated in this corruption.

As verses 4-6 points out, sexual sin involves:

- a) Lack of self control (verse 4)
- b) Lust (verse 5)
- c) Selfishness (verse 6) on the part of those who engage in it. The command by Paul in verse 6 that no one should “take advantage of and defraud his brother” seems to refer to adultery with another man’s wife.

In these verses Paul commands the Thessalonians to “abstain” from sexual immorality, calling it “uncleanness” in verse 7. Paul says that this is the will of God for them (verse 3a) and that rejecting his commands regarding sexual purity is the same as rejecting God Himself (verse 8) and will result in God’s judgment on those who disobey (verse 6b).

2) Love – Verses 9-12 - In contrast to the lack of self-control, lust and selfishness of sexual immorality, the lives of the Thessalonian Christians is to be marked by an increasing love for one another (verses 9-10), and Paul exhorts them to this. In verses 11-12, Paul urges them to lead quiet, productive lives so as to gain a good reputation with those outside of the faith. Working hard at our vocations so as to bless others is one of the best ways to love one another and is a good safeguard against sins of all sort, including sexual immorality.

### **C. Chapter 4:13-5:11 – Thessalonians’ Future Hope**

It appears that the Thessalonians had concerns, both about the future bodily resurrection of believers in Jesus who have died (4:13-18), and of the coming judgment of the Lord. (5:1-11).

**Have as student read 4:13-18.** In verses 13-18 of chapter 4, we learn that the saints in Thessalonica were tempted to much sorrow over the death of loved ones, some of whom may have been martyred for their faith. It seems as though they feared that there was no future bodily resurrection from the dead as the Sadducees had taught in Jesus’ day (see and as perhaps their former pagan religions had also taught.

**Ask the students, “How does Paul comfort them?”**

Paul comforts them by telling them:

- 1) The resurrection of Jesus guarantees that those who have died with their faith in Jesus will also surely rise from the dead – Verse 14
- 2) In fact, those saints who are dead will be the first to rise from the dead and be with Jesus when He comes at the last judgment – Verses 15-16
- 3) Those who are alive at the coming of Jesus will then join those who were dead and who have risen to be with the Lord – Verse 17

Paul, having comforted them with these truths, instructs the Thessalonian believers to comfort one another as well.

Some Bible commentators believe that 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 also refers to the final judgment at the end of history. However, it seems that, in chapter 5, Paul shifts the focus of his exhortation to the Thessalonian Christians from their concerns regarding the end of the world to those of the near future. This likely refers to the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Roman armies in 70 A.D.

**Have a student read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.**

The Jews, because of their crucifixion of Jesus and of their ongoing persecution of the Christians, were facing the wrath and judgment of God (Recall 1:9-10, and 2:14-16). In Scripture, times of wrath and judgment are often referred to as a “day of the Lord” (see Isaiah 2:12ff and 13:6ff for example). Paul, in 5:2 says that this particular “day of the Lord” (wrath/judgment) will come swiftly and unexpectedly. It will come on the Jews who are

unrepentant (“of the night/darkness”) and not anticipating it (“those who sleep/ are drunk”) – verses 4-7. Because the Thessalonians have repented of their sins, they are “of the day”.

In 1:2-3, Paul had thanked God for the Thessalonians **faith, love and hope**. Paul now exhorts them to “be sober” (vigilant), by taking up these same spiritual weapons of **faith** and **love** (breastplate), and of their **hope** of salvation (helmet) as they face this coming judgment on the enemies of God (verse 8). Notice that Paul does not promise the Thessalonian Christians that they will be spared from all the hardships of this coming judgment. However, as they exercise faith, love and hope, they will be able to continue to live as godly Christians, trusting that God indeed will ultimately deliver them from the wrath to come, whether in this life or the next (verses 9-10). As he did in 4:18, Paul again exhorts the Thessalonian Christians to “comfort each other and edify one another, just as you are also doing”.

#### **D. Chapter 5:12-28 – Thessalonians’ Present Duties**

In the face of the ongoing persecution and the coming judgment, Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to continue to perform their present Christian duties towards the Lord and towards one another. **Have a student read 5:12-22 and have various students list Paul’s commands.**

They are to:

- 1) Give due honor and love to their church leaders
- 2) Warn the unruly
- 3) Comfort the fainthearted (recall 4:18, 5:11)
- 4) Uphold the weak
- 5) Be patient with all
- 6) See that no one renders evil for evil
- 7) Rejoice always
- 8) Pray without ceasing
- 9) Give thanks in everything, for this is God’s will
- 10) Not quench the Spirit
- 11) Not despise prophecies (the preaching of the Word)
- 12) Test all things and hold fast to what is good
- 13) Abstain from every form of evil

This list is a wonderful summary of what every church should strive to do as they seek to live out the Christian life of faith and love.

Paul closes this letter of praise, thanksgiving, hope and exhortation to the Thessalonians with a wonderful benediction and blessing. **Have a student read 5:23-28.**

Paul prays for his brothers and sisters in Christ. He assures them that, though they are to strive to live the Christian life of faith and love, it is God Himself who is the ultimate faithful one, and who will work all of His will in and through them. He ends his letter the way he began it, by praying that the “grace of our Lord Jesus Christ” would be with them (recall 1:1).

May each of us remain faithful to the Lord and continue to love one another despite hardship or persecution, that unbelievers may repent and believe in Jesus.

❖ **Homework** – Read the entire book of 2 Thessalonians

❖ **Pray / Prep for Worship**

# Paul's ministry in Thessalonica during his second missionary journey



www.keyway.ca



# 1 and 2 Thessalonians – Thanksgiving and Future Hope

## Lesson 3 - 2 Thessalonians – Commendations, Comfort, and Commands

- ❖ **Greetings** – Pray with the students for the Lord’s blessing on their class
- ❖ **Attendance and Accountability**
- ❖ **Westminster Shorter Catechism** – Briefly go over the question(s) and answer(s) for this quarter.
  
- ❖ **Memory Verse** – 2 Thessalonians 1:11 – Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power.
  
- ❖ **Review** – Review the last lesson with the students by going through the review questions on the Student Handout.

### ❖ **Lesson – 2 Thessalonians**

***1. Introduction to 2 Thessalonians*** – Most of this section is review from 1 Thessalonians

**A. Authorship** – **Paul** is identified as the primary author in 2 Thessalonians 1:1, writing on behalf of Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy. In 2 Thessalonians 3:17, Paul says that he wrote the letter with his own hand.

**B. Audience** – 2 Thessalonians 1:1 identifies “**the church of the Thessalonians** in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” as recipients of this letter

**C. Date / Place** – Many Bible scholars believe that this letter was written by Paul from **Corinth** shortly after he wrote 1 Thessalonians (sometime between **50 and 54 A.D.**)

**D. Historical Context** - While on his second missionary journey with Silas and Timothy, Paul desired to preach the word in Asia but was forbidden to do so by the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6). Instead, Paul received a night vision of a man from Macedonia pleading with him saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us” (Acts 16:9). Paul first visited Thessalonica (a city in Macedonia) after he and Silas were released from prison in Philippi. (Acts 17). For at least three Sabbath days (three weeks), Paul reasoned in the synagogue with those present, and many believed the gospel (Acts 17:2-4). However, the leading Jews of Thessalonica stirred up trouble against Paul and his companions and they had to flee by night to Berea. After ministering there, Paul was escorted by the Bereans to Athens while Silas and Timothy stayed behind. (Acts 17:14-15a). Paul then sent for Silas and Timothy (Acts 17:15b) and they joined him in Corinth (Acts 18:5). According to 1 Thessalonians 3, when he heard of the afflictions of the Thessalonian church, Paul sent Timothy back to visit the saints there in order to “establish” them and to “encourage (them) in the faith” (1 Thessalonians 3:2). Timothy’s return to Paul in Corinth, with his report on the state of the Thessalonian church, is what prompted Paul to write his first letter to them. Further concerns for the state there prompted Paul to write a second letter to them.

**E. Geographical Context** - Thessalonica, named after the step-sister of Alexander the Great, was the **capital of the Roman province of Macedonia** (see map). Thessalonica stood on the *Via Egnatia*, the Roman highway to the East and it had a good natural harbor as well. This

made Thessalonica a center for travelers and merchants and it was home to a mixed population of Greeks, Jews, and foreign Gentiles.

**F. Paul’s Purpose for Writing 2 Thessalonians** – As you will remember, in 1 Thessalonians, Paul

1) **Praised** the Thessalonian Christians there for their steadfast faith in the Lord Jesus in the face of persecution and for their love for one another (recall 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, 2:13-3:10).

2) **Comforted** them concerning what will happen at the end of all time and concerning the coming judgment of God on the Jews (recall 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11).

3) **Exhorted** the new Christians to live lives of increased love and faithfulness (recall 1 Thessalonians 3:11-4:12, 5:12-22).

As we come to 2 Thessalonians, the church is thriving and the saints there are continuing their godly walks of faith and love. However, it seems as though the Thessalonian Christians still have concerns about what their near future holds (see 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2). In response to this Paul sends a second letter **commending** (praising) them (1:1-6), **comforting** them (1:7-2:12), and **commanding** them (2:13-3:18).

**G. Outline of 2 Thessalonians** – For the purposes of this study we will use this simple outline of 2 Thessalonians:

**Chapter 1 – Paul’s Greeting and Commendations**

**Chapter 2 – Paul’s Comfort in the Face of Coming Judgment**

**Chapter 3 – Paul’s Commands and Farewell**

**II. 2 Thessalonians**

**A. Chapter 1 – Paul’s Greeting and Commendations**

Paul’s second letter to the Thessalonian church begins similarly to his first letter to them

<b>1 Thessalonians 1:1-3</b>	<b>2 Thessalonians 1:1-4</b>
Paul, Silvanus and Timothy	Paul, Silvanus and Timothy
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ	To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ	Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
We give <b>thanks</b> to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of <b>faith</b> , labor of <b>love</b> , and <b>patience of hope</b> in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father...	We are bound to <b>thank</b> God always for you, brethren as is fitting, because your <b>faith</b> grows exceedingly, and the <b>love</b> of every one of you all abounds towards each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your <b>patience and faith</b> in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure...

Paul gives the Thessalonian Christians his customary salutation of “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (verse 2). There is no **peace** with God or our

fellow man without **grace** from God, convicting us of our sin and of our need of forgiveness, and drawing us to Himself.

Paul praises the Thessalonian Christians not only because their faith has grown and their love for one another abounds, but because they have been patient and faithful in the midst of persecution and tribulation (verse 4). Paul and his friends even boast about this to the other churches of God!

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul said that their **patience of hope** in the midst of trouble was evidence that they were elected by God to salvation (1 Thessalonians 1:4). Here in 2 Thessalonians, Paul says that the patient suffering of the faithful Thessalonian Christians is also evidence that the judgment of God is coming on all of their (and His) enemies (**Have a student read 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10**).

Jesus is on the throne of God and every man and woman is now called to bow the knee to Him. Those who refuse to do so, and especially those who persecute Christians like those in Thessalonica are under the wrath and judgment of God both in this life and in eternity to come. Twice in this chapter Paul refers to this judgment from God as “righteous” (verses 4,5). The specific judgment referred to in 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12 may refer to the coming destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D. by the Roman army or it may point forward to the final Day of Judgment when both the dead and the living will be judged by God. Perhaps it refers to both. In either case, the enemies of God who troubled the Thessalonian Christians face the fiery vengeance of the Lord and “...shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” (verses 8-9) Hell is a real place. It is awful, it is eternal, and it eternally separates rebellious men and women from God. In our speaking with non-Christians, we would do well to always keep this in mind.

This judgment, which works destruction for the enemies of God, gives **rest** (verse 7) and the **hope** of future glory (verse 10) to those who bow the knee to Jesus and place their trust in Him. Paul prays for the Thessalonian believers that the Lord would count them worthy of their calling in Christ and would continue to strengthen them in their faith, for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ (verses 11-12).

## **B. Chapter 2 - Paul's Comfort in the Face of Coming Judgment**

Though it is uncertain whether Thessalonians 1:5-12 refers the Last Judgment or the coming judgment of God in 70 A.D., it seems likely that 2 Thessalonians 2 is speaking about the 70 A.D. judgment. **Have a student read 2 Thessalonians 2:5-12.**

In verses 1 and 2, Paul speaks of a “coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” and of a “day of the Lord”. As we said in our study of 1 Thessalonians, when the Scripture speaks of the Lord “coming” or of a “day of the Lord” it often refers not to a physical appearance of the Lord, but of a time of His judgment, especially on His people when they rebelled (see Isaiah 2:12ff and 13:6ff for example). Verse 2 says that the Thessalonians had been “shaken” and “troubled” as though the “day of Christ” had come. If these verses were speaking of the Last



Judgment, there could be no doubt on the part of the Thessalonians as to the meaning of the events that were troubling them. It seems likely then that the Thessalonians were looking for a judgment of God to come in their lifetimes, but they were not sure when or how it was to take place. Paul assures them that there is no need to be “shaken in mind or troubled” as if this judgment had already come. It is near (70 A.D.), but not as near as the Thessalonians thought. In verses 3-12, Paul outlines the sequence of events that will mark the coming of this judgment

1) There will be a “falling away” (Verse 3a) – Before the judgment of God comes in 70 A.D., many of those who profess faith in Jesus will turn away from following Him, much as Peter and the rest of the disciples did at the time of Jesus' crucifixion. We see this same “falling away” event spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24:10 - “And many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another”.

2) The “man of sin” / “son of perdition” / “lawless one” will be revealed – Verses 3b-12 – The identity of this “man of sin” has been debated by Bible scholars for centuries. From the text we learn that:

- He is “lawless” (v. 8)
- He opposes and exalts himself above God (v. 4a)
- He sits in the Temple acting as if he were in the place of God (v. 4b)

One plausible theory is that this man may be the apostate High Priests (or a particular High Priest) of Israel who should have been men of the Law, representing God to the people, but who instead opposed both Jesus and His disciples and exalted themselves instead. It may also refer to the entire corrupt Jewish religious system as represented by the High Priest.

This “man of sin” does Satan’s work, even to the point of counterfeit miracles (verse 9 - see also Matthew 24:24) but will be judged by the Lord (verse 8). This seems to clearly point to the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

3) There is currently one “who now restrains” who is preventing the “man of sin”/ “lawless one” from having his full influence – Verses 6-7 – Whoever this restrainer is, he will be taken “out of the way” (verse 7) prior to the coming of the man of sin. Some have said that this restrainer may have been James, the brother of Jesus who was the head of the church in Jerusalem prior to his being martyred for his faith by the high priest Ananus. It could also refer to all of the saints in the church in Jerusalem who were warned by Jesus to flee Jerusalem when they saw the approaching Roman armies coming to lay siege to the city (see Matthew 24:16).

Verses 10-12 – Instead of receiving the love of the truth that they may be saved, many will be persuaded by the deception of this “man of sin” and be caught up in the same judgment of God.

**Have a student read verses 13-17.** In verses 13-14, Paul again thanks the Lord that the Thessalonians are not among those who will be condemned in the coming judgment. They are:

- **Beloved** by the Lord – verse 13a

- **Chosen** from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth – Verse 13b-14

In the life of any Christian, the real credit, both for their salvation and their faithful walk with the Lord goes to God himself who loved them, chose them, saved them, and sanctified them for belief in the gospel.

In verse 15, Paul exhorts the Thessalonian Christians to “stand fast” in their faith and obedience to the Lord Jesus and to keep to Paul’s teaching and applications as well, that they might persevere in the midst of persecution and the judgment of God which is coming. Paul then prays for them:

1) He reminds them that the Lord has already loved them and given them comfort and hope – verse 16

2) He prays that the Lord would continue to comfort them and strengthen them to continue in their faith and obedience – Verse 17

### **C. Chapter 3 – Paul’s Commands and Farewell**

Not only do the Thessalonian Christians face enemies from outside of the church, but from within as well. In chapter 3, Paul gives the Thessalonian Christians commands regarding their dealing with sinful brothers in the church. In fact the word “command/commanded” is used 4 times in the chapter (verses 4,6,10,12).

#### **Have a student read verses 1-5**

Before issuing his commands to them, Paul asks the Thessalonians to pray for him and his fellow laborers. **What does he ask them to pray for?**

- **That their preaching would be effective as it has been with the Thessalonians**

- **That they would be delivered from those who oppose them**

Before he gives them further commands, Paul tells them that he is sure that they will obey (verse 4) and prays that God would grant them His love and patience (verse 5). This love and patience will be required as they deal with sin in the church

#### **Have a student read verses 6-15**

For Christians, a large part of walking in faith and obedience consists of diligent labor at the vocation God has given us. Within the Thessalonian church there were some Christians who were causing trouble by their idleness. In fact, instead of working for their own support and to have some to give to others, they had become busybodies (verse 11). Paul uses the word “disorderly” (literally “to step out of line”) three times (vv. 6, 7,11) to describe these men and, in Greek society, this word was used of men who did not show up for work.

Because of his tireless labors of preaching and church planting, Paul could have expected to be paid for his ministry work. Instead, he not only ministered, he also paid his own way through his outside labors (as a tentmaker – see Acts 18:3). Paul says he did this in order to set an example for all believers (verses 7-9) that they too should be diligent laborers in the Kingdom of God and should not even expect to eat if they did not work. (verse 10). Paul commands these idle Christians to work and to enjoy the fruits of their own labors (verse 12). He also commands the other saints in Thessalonica to withdraw themselves from these idle

Christians (verse 6), and to not even keep company with them in order to shame them into repentance and obedience (verse 14). However, Paul instructs them to continue to admonish (rebuke/instruct) view these idle men as brothers in the Lord and not as enemies of God.

**Have a student read verses 16-17**

Though the Thessalonian church will certainly face hardship and turmoil, Paul concludes his letter to them by praying that the Lord would grant them “peace in every way” and that He would be with them in the midst of their troubles. Having assured them that he himself has written this to them with his own hand, Paul finishes the letter as he began it, by praying for the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to be with them all.

By the grace of God, may we commit ourselves to always walk in faith and obedience, diligently laboring at whatever vocation God has given us to do even in the face of trials and persecution. As we do this, both as individuals and as the church, we can be confident that the Lord of peace Himself will give us peace always in every way.

❖ **Pray / Prep for Worship**

**1 and Thessalonians – Thanksgiving and Future Hope**  
**Lesson 1 – Introduction and 1 Thessalonians 1-2**  
**Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense**

❖ **Greetings**

❖ **Attendance and Accountability - Requirements** – Writing utensils, Bibles, a good night’s sleep

❖ **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

❖ **Memory verses** – 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 – And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

❖ **Lesson – 1 Thessalonians – Introduction and Chapters 1-2**

**I. Introduction to 1 Thessalonians**

**A. Authorship** – \_\_\_\_\_ wrote 1 Thessalonians

**B. Audience** – the church of the Thessalonians

**C. Date / Place** – 1 Thessalonians was likely written from \_\_\_\_\_ sometime around \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Thessalonians may be the \_\_\_\_\_ of Paul’s epistles.

**D. Historical Context** - see Acts 16-17 and the map at the end of this lesson

**E. Geographical Context** - Thessalonica

**II. Paul’s Purpose for Writing 1 Thessalonians**

**III. Outline of 1 Thessalonians** -:

**Chapters 1-2 – Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense**

**Chapter 3 – Timothy’s Good Report**

**Chapters 4-5 – Paul’s Commands, Thessalonians’ Future Hope and Present Duties**

**IV. 1 Thessalonians 1-2 – Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense**

**A. Chapter 1 – Paul’s greetings and praise**

**1. Greetings** - “\_\_\_\_\_ to you and \_\_\_\_\_ from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”.

**2. Praise** – Four ways Paul encourages the Thessalonians:

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| a. | c. |
| b. | d. |

Verses 5-10 - How did the Thessalonians respond to the preaching of the gospel?

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| a. | c. |
| b. | d. |

In verse 10, Paul hints of a godly “\_\_\_\_\_ to come” on those who killed Jesus and are now persecuting His saints.

**B. Chapter 2:1-12 – Paul’s defense of his ministry**

**True or False** – Paul, his friends, and the Thessalonian Christians had all endured persecution for the gospel

Verses 3-6 – Name some things that were **not** true the ministry of Paul and his friends:

Verses 7-12 – Name some things that **were** true of the ministry of Paul and his friends:

What was the ultimate goal of the ministry of Paul and his friends to the Thessalonians according to verse 12?

**C. Chapter 2:13-20 – Paul’s praise and longing**

**1. 2:13-16 - Paul’s thanksgiving**

In verses 14-16, what evidence does Paul give that the Thessalonians had truly received the Word of God?

What was the “wrath” that was coming upon the Jews who had crucified Jesus and who were persecuting the Christians?

**2. 2:17-20 - Paul’s longing**

What did Paul say to the Thessalonian Christians that demonstrates how much he loved them?

❖ **Homework** – Read the entire book of 1 Thessalonians once and read chapters 3-5 at least twice. Work on memorizing 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, the outline, and the Westminster Shorter Catechism questions and answers

❖ **Prayer / Prep for Worship**

**1 and 2 Thessalonians – Thanksgiving and Future Hope**  
**Lesson 1 – Introduction and 1 Thessalonians 1-2**  
**Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense**

❖ **Greetings**

❖ **Attendance and Accountability - Requirements** – Writing utensils, Bibles, a good night’s sleep

❖ **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

❖ **Memory verses** – 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 – And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

❖ **Lesson – 1 Thessalonians – Introduction and Chapters 1-2**

**I. Introduction to 1 Thessalonians**

**A. Authorship** – **Paul** wrote 1 Thessalonians

**B. Audience** – the church of the Thessalonians

**C. Date / Place** – 1 Thessalonians was likely written from **Corinth** sometime around **50 A.D.**  
1 Thessalonians may be the **earliest** of Paul’s epistles.

**D. Historical Context** - see Acts 16-17 and the map at the end of this lesson

**E. Geographical Context** - Thessalonica

**II. Paul’s Purpose for Writing 1 Thessalonians**

**III. Outline of 1 Thessalonians** -:

**Chapters 1-2 – Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense**

**Chapter 3 – Timothy’s Good Report**

**Chapters 4-5 – Paul’s Commands, Thessalonians’ Future Hope and Present Duties**

**IV. 1 Thessalonians 1-2 – Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense**

**A. Chapter 1 – Paul’s greetings and praise**

1. **Greetings** - “**Grace** to you and **Peace** from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”.

2. **Praise** – Four ways Paul encourages the Thessalonians:

- |                               |                                                 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| a. <b>Thanks God for them</b> | c. <b>Remembers their faith, hope, and love</b> |
| b. <b>Prays for them</b>      | d. <b>Assures them of their election</b>        |

Verses 5-10 - How did the Thessalonians respond to the preaching of the gospel?

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| a. <b>Heard</b>    | c. <b>Lived</b>    |
| b. <b>Received</b> | d. <b>Preached</b> |

In verse 10, Paul hints of a godly “**wrath** to come” on those who killed Jesus and are now persecuting His saints.

**B. Chapter 2:1-12 – Paul’s defense of his ministry**

**True or False** – Paul, his friends, and the Thessalonian Christians had all endured persecution for the gospel

Verses 3-6 – Name some things that were **not** true the ministry of Paul and his friends:

**Teaching was not from error, uncleanness or deceit; did not use flattering words; did not preach the Word in order to get something from the Thessalonians; did not seek glory or honor from men**

Verses 7-12 – Name some things that **were** true of the ministry of Paul and his friends:

**They were gentle like a mother; They loved them; They were hard working, devout, just, and blameless; They exhorted, comforted and charged them like a father**

What was the ultimate goal of the ministry of Paul and his friends to the Thessalonians according to verse 12? **That the Thessalonians would “walk worthy of God who (called them) into His own kingdom and glory”**

### **C. Chapter 2:13-20 – Paul’s praise and longing**

#### **1. 2:13-16 - Paul’s thanksgiving**

In verses 14-16, what evidence does Paul give that the Thessalonians had truly received the Word of God?

**They are suffering persecution**

What was the “wrath” that was coming upon the Jews who had crucified Jesus and who were persecuting the Christians?

**The destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D.**

#### **2. 2:17-20 - Paul’s longing**

What did Paul say to the Thessalonian Christians that demonstrates how much he loved them?

**His heart is still with them; He has tried to see them with great desire but satan has hindered him; They are his hope, joy, crown of rejoicing, and glory.**

❖ **Homework** – Read the entire book of 1 Thessalonians once and read chapters 3-5 at least twice. Work on memorizing 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, the outline, and the Westminster Shorter Catechism questions and answers

❖ **Prayer / Prep for Worship**

**1 and 2 Thessalonians – Thanksgiving and Future Hope**  
**Lesson 2 – 1 Thessalonians 3-5**  
**Timothy’s Good Report**  
**Paul’s Commands, Thessalonians’ Future Hope and Present Duties**

❖ **Greetings**

❖ **Attendance and Accountability**

❖ **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

❖ **Memory verses** – 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 – And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

❖ **Outline of 1 Thessalonians – Review this with the students**

Chapters 1-2 – Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense

Chapter 3 – Timothy’s Good Report

Chapters 4-5 – Paul’s Commands, Thessalonians’ Future Hope and Present Duties

❖ **Review**

- Who wrote 1 Thessalonians? \_\_\_\_\_
- Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? \_\_\_\_\_
- When did Paul write this letter? \_\_\_\_\_
- True or False – 1 Thessalonians is likely Paul’s first epistle

❖ **Lesson – 1 Thessalonians Chapters 3-5**

**Chapter 3 – Timothy’s Good Report**

True or False – Because he was concerned about their faith and well-being, Paul sent Mark to encourage and strengthen the Thessalonian Christians

True or False – Paul learned that the Thessalonian Christians were remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus in spite of persecution

**Chapter 4:1-12 – Paul’s Commands**

What two areas of life does Paul exhort the Thessalonians regarding in this section

- 1)
- 2)

**Chapter 4:13-5:11 – Thessalonians’ Future Hope**

True or False - The Thessalonian Christians were concerned about the eternal fate of some of their brothers and sisters in Christ who had died

Who will rise first to be with the Jesus when He comes at the last judgment? \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Those who are alive at the time   b. Those who are dead at the time   c. The dead and living will rise together

Paul says that the Thessalonians are to “\_\_\_\_\_ one another with these words”

True or False – At the beginning of Chapter 5, Paul continues to deal with the Thessalonian’s concerns regarding the last judgment



Give two reasons why God's wrath was coming upon the Jews.

1)

2)

True or False – Though the Thessalonians would likely suffer hardship, they would ultimately be delivered from the coming wrath

### **Chapter 5:12-28 – Thessalonians' Present Duties**

What did Paul command the Thessalonians to do in the face of the ongoing persecution and the coming judgment?

- 1) Give due honor and love to their church \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ the unruly
- 3) Comfort the \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Uphold the \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Be \_\_\_\_\_ with all
- 6) See that no one renders \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ always
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ without ceasing
- 9) Give \_\_\_\_\_ in everything
- 10) Do not quench the \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Do not \_\_\_\_\_ prophecies (the preaching of the Word)
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_ all things and hold fast to what is good
- 13) Abstain from every form of \_\_\_\_\_

May each of us remain faithful to the Lord and continue to love one another despite hardship or persecution, that the Lord may be glorified and that unbelievers may bow the knee to King Jesus.

❖ **Homework** – Read the entire book of 2 Thessalonians; Begin to memorize 2 Thessalonians 1:11; Work on Westminster Shorter Catechism questions and answers.

❖ **Pray / Prep for Worship**

**1 and 2 Thessalonians – Thanksgiving and Future Hope**  
**Lesson 2 – 1 Thessalonians 3-5**  
**Timothy’s Good Report**  
**Paul’s Commands, Thessalonians’ Future Hope and Present Duties**

❖ **Greetings**

❖ **Attendance and Accountability**

❖ **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

- ❖ **Memory verses** – 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 – And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

❖ **Outline of 1 Thessalonians – Review this with the students**

Chapters 1-2 – Thessalonians’ Past Faithfulness, Paul’s Defense

Chapter 3 – Timothy’s Good Report

Chapters 4-5 – Paul’s Commands, Thessalonians’ Future Hope and Present Duties

❖ **Review**

- Who wrote 1 Thessalonians? **Paul**
- Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? **Corinth (likely)**
- When did Paul write this letter? **Around 50 A.D.**
- **True** or False – 1 Thessalonians is likely Paul’s first epistle

❖ **Lesson – 1 Thessalonians Chapters 3-5**

**Chapter 3 – Timothy’s Good Report**

True or **False** – Because he was concerned about their faith and well-being, Paul sent Mark to encourage and strengthen the Thessalonian Christians (**It was Timothy**)

**True** or False – Paul learned that the Thessalonian Christians were remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus in spite of persecution

**Chapter 4:1-12 – Paul’s Commands**

What two areas of life does Paul exhort the Thessalonians regarding in this section

- 1) **Sexual purity**
- 2) **Love for each other**

**Chapter 4:13-5:11 – Thessalonians’ Future Hope**

**True** or False - The Thessalonian Christians were concerned about the eternal fate of some of their brothers and sisters in Christ who had died

Who will rise first to be with the Jesus when He comes at the last judgment? **b**

- a. Those who are alive at the time   b. Those who are dead at the time   c. The dead and living will rise together

Paul says that the Thessalonians are to “**comfort** one another with these words”

True or **False** – At the beginning of Chapter 5, Paul continues to deal with the Thessalonian’s concerns regarding the last judgment

Give two reasons why God's wrath was coming upon the Jews.

1) **They had killed Jesus**

2) **They were persecuting Christians**

**True** or **False** – Though the Thessalonians would likely suffer hardship, they would ultimately be delivered from the coming wrath

### **Chapter 5:12-28 – Thessalonians' Present Duties**

What did Paul command the Thessalonians to do in the face of the ongoing persecution and the coming judgment?

- 1) Give due honor and love to their church **leaders**
- 2) **Warn** the unruly
- 3) Comfort the **fainthearted**
- 4) Uphold the **weak**
- 5) Be **patient** with all
- 6) See that no one renders **evil** for **evil**
- 7) **Rejoice** always
- 8) **Pray** without ceasing
- 9) Give **thanks** in everything
- 10) Do not quench the **Spirit**
- 11) Do not **despise** prophecies (the preaching of the Word)
- 12) **Test** all things and hold fast to what is good
- 13) Abstain from every form of **evil**

May each of us remain faithful to the Lord and continue to love one another despite hardship or persecution, that the Lord may be glorified and that unbelievers may bow the knee to King Jesus.

❖ **Homework** – Read the entire book of 2 Thessalonians; Begin to memorize 2 Thessalonians 1:11; Work on Westminster Shorter Catechism questions and answers.

❖ **Pray / Prep for Worship**

**1 and 2 Thessalonians – Thanksgiving and Future Hope**  
**Lesson 3 – 2 Thessalonians**  
**Commendations, Comfort, and Commands**

❖ **Greetings**

❖ **Attendance and Accountability**

❖ **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

- ❖ **Memory Verse** – 2 Thessalonians 1:11 – Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power.

❖ **Review**

**Chapter 3 – Timothy’s Good Report**

True or False – Because he was concerned about their faith and well-being, Paul sent Mark to encourage and strengthen the Thessalonian Christians

True or False – Paul learned that the Thessalonian Christians were remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus in spite of persecution

**Chapter 4:1-12 – Paul’s Commands**

What two areas of life does Paul exhort the Thessalonians regarding in this section?

- a. Sexual purity / love for each other    c. Respect for authority / unity in the church  
b. Tithing / marital faithfulness

**Chapter 4:13-5:11 – Thessalonians’ Future Hope**

True or False - The Thessalonian Christians were concerned about the eternal fate of some of their brothers and sisters in Christ who had died

Who will rise first to be with the Jesus when He comes at the last judgment? \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Those who are alive at the time    b. Those who are dead at the time    c. The dead and living will rise together

Paul says that the Thessalonians are to “\_\_\_\_\_ one another with these words”

Give two reasons why God’s wrath was coming upon the Jews.

1)

2)

True or False – Though the Thessalonians would likely suffer hardship, they would ultimately be delivered from the coming wrath

**Chapter 5:12-28 – Thessalonians’ Present Duties** - Look at 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28.

Name some commands that Paul gave to the Thessalonians to do in the face of the ongoing persecution and the coming judgment?

## ❖ Lesson – 2 Thessalonians – Commendations, Comfort and Commands

- Who wrote 2 Thessalonians? \_\_\_\_\_
- When did he write it? \_\_\_\_\_
- From where did he likely write it? \_\_\_\_\_

### Outline of 2 Thessalonians:

#### Chapter 1 – Paul’s Greeting and Commendations

#### Chapter 2 – Paul’s Comfort in the Face of Coming Judgment

#### Chapter 3 – Paul’s Commands and Farewell

#### A. Chapter 1 – Paul’s Greeting and Commendations

- Paul’s familiar greeting in many of his letters is “\_\_\_\_\_ to you and \_\_\_\_\_...”
- True or False - Paul said that the patient suffering of the Thessalonians was evidence that they were elected by God to salvation.
- Twice in this chapter Paul refers to the coming wrath of God as \_\_\_\_\_.
- True or False – This same wrath of God will give rest and hope to the Thessalonian believers

#### B. Chapter 2 – Paul’s Comfort in the Face of Coming Judgment

- True or False - 2 Thessalonian 2 likely deals with the coming judgment on Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D.
- What will be the series of events leading up to this judgment?
  - 1) There will be a \_\_\_\_\_ away (verse 3a)
  - 2) The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ will be revealed (verses 3b-12)
  - 3) The one who now \_\_\_\_\_ the man of sin will be taken away
- Though we don’t know for sure, it could be that the “man of sin” may be referring to the apostate \_\_\_\_\_ (s) of Israel.
- In verses 13-17 Paul assures the Thessalonians that they will not be condemned in the coming judgment because they are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by God

#### C. Paul’s Commands and Farewell

- True or False – Paul said he didn’t need for the Thessalonians to pray for him
- What was the sin on the part of some of the Christians in Thessalonica that Paul deals with in this chapter?
  - a. Greed      c. Anger
  - b. Idleness    d. Sexual impurity
- Paul says, “If anyone will not work, neither shall he \_\_\_\_\_.” Verse 10
- Paul ends his letter to the Thessalonians by saying, “Now may the Lord of \_\_\_\_\_ Himself give you \_\_\_\_\_ always in every way, The Lord be with you all.”

### ❖ Homework – Turn in Student Evaluation

### ❖ Pray / Prep for Worship

**1 and 2 Thessalonians – Thanksgiving and Future Hope**  
**Lesson 3 – 2 Thessalonians**  
**Commendations, Comfort, and Commands**

❖ **Greetings**

❖ **Attendance and Accountability**

❖ **Westminster Shorter Catechism**

❖ **Memory Verse** – 2 Thessalonians 1:11 – Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power.

❖ **Review**

**Chapter 3 – Timothy’s Good Report**

True or False – Because he was concerned about their faith and well-being, Paul sent Mark to encourage and strengthen the Thessalonian Christians (**It was Timothy**)

True or False – Paul learned that the Thessalonian Christians were remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus in spite of persecution

**Chapter 4:1-12 – Paul’s Commands**

What two areas of life does Paul exhort the Thessalonians regarding in this section?

- a. **Sexual purity / love for each other**    c. Respect for authority / unity in the church  
b. Tithing / marital faithfulness

**Chapter 4:13-5:11 – Thessalonians’ Future Hope**

True or False - The Thessalonian Christians were concerned about the eternal fate of some of their brothers and sisters in Christ who had died

Who will rise first to be with the Jesus when He comes at the last judgment?

- a. Those who are alive at the time    **b. Those who are dead at the time**    c. The dead and living will rise together

Paul says that the Thessalonians are to “**comfort** one another with these words”

Give two reasons why God’s wrath was coming upon the Jews.

- 1) **They had killed Jesus**
- 2) **They were persecuting Christians**

True or False – Though the Thessalonians would likely suffer hardship, they would ultimately be delivered from the coming wrath

**Chapter 5:12-28 – Thessalonians’ Present Duties** - Look at 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28.

Name some commands that Paul gave to the Thessalonians to do in the face of the ongoing persecution and the coming judgment?

- |                                                           |                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <b>Give due honor and love to their church leaders</b> | 8) <b>Pray without ceasing</b>                                   |
| 2) <b>Warn the unruly</b>                                 | 9) <b>Give thanks in everything</b>                              |
| 3) <b>Comfort the fainthearted</b>                        | 10) <b>Do not quench the Spirit</b>                              |
| 4) <b>Uphold the weak</b>                                 | 11) <b>Do not despise prophecies (the preaching of the Word)</b> |
| 5) <b>Be patient with all</b>                             | 12) <b>Test all things and hold fast to what is good</b>         |
| 6) <b>See that no one renders evil for evil</b>           | 13) <b>Abstain from every form of evil</b>                       |
| 7) <b>Rejoice always</b>                                  |                                                                  |

## ❖ Lesson – 2 Thessalonians – Commendations, Comfort and Commands

- Who wrote 2 Thessalonians? **Paul**
- When did he write it? **Between 50-54 A.D.**
- From where did he likely write it? **Corinth**

### Outline of 2 Thessalonians:

#### Chapter 1 – Paul’s Greeting and Commendations

#### Chapter 2 – Paul’s Comfort in the Face of Coming Judgment

#### Chapter 3 – Paul’s Commands and Farewell

#### A. Chapter 1 – Paul’s Greeting and Commendations

- Paul’s familiar greeting in many of his letters is “**Grace** to you and **Peace**...”
- **True** or False - Paul said that the patient suffering of the Thessalonians was evidence that they were elected by God to salvation.
- Twice in this chapter Paul refers to the coming wrath of God as **righteous**.
- **True** or False – This same wrath of God will give rest and hope to the Thessalonian believers

#### B. Chapter 2 – Paul’s Comfort in the Face of Coming Judgment

- **True** or False - 2 Thessalonian 2 likely deals with the coming judgment on Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 A.D.
- What will be the series of events leading up to this judgment?
  - 1) There will be a **falling** away (verse 3a)
  - 2) The **man** of **sin** will be revealed (verses 3b-12)
  - 3) The one who now **restrains** the man of sin will be taken away
- Though we don’t know for sure, it could be that the “man of sin” may be referring to the apostate **High Priests**(s) of Israel.
- In verses 13-17 Paul assures the Thessalonians that they will not be condemned in the coming judgment because they are **beloved** and **chosen** by God

#### C. Paul’s Commands and Farewell

- True or **False** – Paul said he didn’t need the Thessalonians to pray for him
- What was the sin on the part of some of the Christians in Thessalonica that Paul deals with in this chapter?
  - a. Greed
  - c. Anger
  - b. Idleness**
  - d. Sexual impurity
- Paul says, “If anyone will not work, neither shall he **eat**.” Verse 10
- Paul ends his letter to the Thessalonians by saying, “Now may the Lord of **peace** Himself give you **peace** always in every way, The Lord be with you all.”

❖ **Homework** – Turn in Student Evaluation

❖ **Pray / Prep for Worship**

## 1 and 2 Thessalonians – Student Evaluation

1) Fill in the outlines for 1 and 2 Thessalonians

### 1 Thessalonians

Chapters \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Thessalonian's Past \_\_\_\_\_ Paul's \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_'s good \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapters \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_'s Commands, Thessalonians' Future \_\_\_\_\_ and  
Present \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Thessalonians

Chapter 1 – Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ and Commendations  
Chapter 2 – Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ in the Face of Coming \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter 3 – Paul's \_\_\_\_\_ and Farewell

- 2) Who wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Where was Paul when he wrote these letters? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) True or False – 1 Thessalonians is likely Paul's first epistle
- 5) Who did Paul send to check on the state of the Thessalonian church? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) True or False – This person reported to Paul that the Thessalonians had abandoned their faith in Jesus.
- 7) True or False – Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to be sexually pure and to love one another.
- 8) True or False – The Thessalonians had no concerns about the eternal state of their brothers and sisters in Christ who had died nor about the coming judgment of God.
- 9) True or False – Though the Thessalonians would likely suffer hardship, they would ultimately be delivered from the coming wrath.
- 10) True or False – In 2 Thessalonians Paul said that the suffering of the Thessalonians was evidence that they had been abandoned by God.
- 11) True or False – The “man of sin” spoken of in 2 Thessalonians 2 may refer to the ungodly High Priest(s) of Israel



12) True or False - In 2 Thessalonians 3, Paul rebukes some of the Thessalonian Christians for their idleness

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 and 2 Thessalonians – Student Evaluation – Answer Key

1) Fill in the outline for 1 Thessalonians

Chapters **1-2** Thessalonian's Past **Faithfulness**, Paul's **Defense**

Chapter **3** **Timothy's** good **Report**

Chapters **4-5** **Paul's** Commands, Thessalonians' Future **Hope** and Present **Duties**

### 2 Thessalonians

Chapter 1 – Paul's Greetings and **Commendations**

Chapter 2 – Paul's **Comfort** in the Face of Coming **Judgment**

Chapter 3 – Paul's **Commands** and Farewell

2) Who wrote 1 Thessalonians? **Paul**

3) Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? **Corinth**

4) **True** or **False** – 1 Thessalonians is likely Paul's first epistle

5) Who did Paul send to check on the state of the Thessalonian church? **Timothy**

6) True or **False** – This person reported to Paul that the Thessalonians had abandoned their faith in Jesus.

7) **True** or **False** – Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to be sexually pure and to love one another.

8) True or **False** – The Thessalonians had no concerns about the eternal state of their brothers and sisters in Christ who had died nor about the coming judgment of God.

9) **True** or **False** – Though the Thessalonians would likely suffer hardship, they would ultimately be delivered from the coming wrath.

10) True or **False** – In 2 Thessalonians Paul said that the suffering of the Thessalonians was evidence that they had been abandoned by God.

11) **True** or **False** – The “man of sin” spoken of in 2 Thessalonians 2 may refer to the ungodly High Priest(s) of Israel

12) **True** or False - In 2 Thessalonians 3, Paul rebukes some of the Thessalonian Christians for their idleness