

The Epistle of 1Thessalonians  
Bible Study  
Pastor Charles A. Hall July 30, 2020  
Chapter 1: verse 1 to 10

The writing of 1Thessalonians represent the early New Testament writing, the letter was written while the Apostle Paul was in Corinth as the result of the progress report provided to him by young Timothy about the spiritual condition of the church in Thessalonica (Thessalonians 3:1-6). Paul and his ministry associates Silas and Timothy founded the church during their second missionary trip (Acts 17:1-14) The church was established from a vision seen by Paul of a Macedonian man calling for help (Acts 16:9).

The church was located along the main Roman highway from east to west with a population of more than 200,000. In Paul's day Thessalonica was considered the capital of Macedonia. As a military and commercial center Thessalonica was known for its wealth as well as attracting a mixture of pagan worshippers. The nucleus of the church was formed by a group of Jews, although Paul's ministry success came mainly from the Gentiles, the non-Jewish communities (Acts 17:4).

Prior to establishing the church in Thessalonica Paul and his ministry associates were in Europe where they founded a church in Philippi after they were miraculously delivered from Jail. After leaving Philippi they travel to Thessalonica where Paul worked as a tent maker while starting the church at Thessalonica, so he would not be a burden on the church. While in Thessalonica Paul lodged in the home of Jason. Paul spent about thirty days in the city ministering to the Jewish community before they had him expelled from the city. It was at the home of Jason that Paul organized the church at Thessalonica. Soon after that Paul barely escaped out of Thessalonica with his life, Paul then travel to Athens where his message was well received, so Paul then sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to check on the condition of the church. (Acts 3:2)

After all the persecution and rejection of the gospel, Paul arrived in Corinth weak, in fear and much trembling (1Corinthians 2:3). Paul was in Corinth when he received the good news about the work and ministry he had begun in Thessalonica from Timothy and Silas. This great news encouraged Paul to continue to push forward in his ministry (Acts18:4-5), however they also reported that the church was having some difficulties as well. Some gentiles but mostly Jews were defaming his character as a wandering swindler who had deceived the church. The church was also confused about the second coming of Christ, they did not understand what happen to those who had already died or those that were still alive. These uncertainties caused many members to return to a life of immorality, some were also concerned about the leadership style of some of the elders. This news prompted Paul to write his first letter to the church of Thessalonica.

This letter was written around 52 AD during Paul long stay in Corinth (Acts18:5).

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**Verse 1** This verse follows Paul's style of writing as he introduces Silas and Timothy however, not as co-authors of the letter but as courtesy since they were Paul's companions while he was in Thessalonica. Silas has replaced Barnabas during this second missionary trip. Timothy joined Paul and Silas in Lystra Timothy's hometown (Acts 16:1-3) after he visited Thessalonica at Paul's request.

**Verse 2** Paul gives thanks to God for the church and work in Thessalonica, and Paul informs the Thessalonians that they are always in his prayers.

**Verse 3** In this verse Paul is referring to the Thessalonians' turn from idol worshipping to God, the reference to **labor of love** is related to their daily practice of serving God and living a life pleasing to God. Paul mention **patience** as a reflection of the Thessalonians steadfastness in waiting for the second coming of Christ.

**Verse 4** In this verse Paul is letting the Thessalonians know that God chose them, they did not choose themselves, and their relation is secured by the power of God.

**Verse 5** Paul is telling the Thessalonians that the words or gospel that he and his associates spoke to them were not just words but words with powers backed by the Holy Spirit, and was delivered with great conviction because they knew the type of messengers they were..... men sent by God.

**Verse 6** Paul tells the Thessalonians that after they received the gospel they became followers or imitator of them and of the Lord. The Thessalonians received the word of God in a respectful, obedient, and favorable ways with joy that was inspired or produced by the Holy Spirit.

**Verse 7** As a result of becoming example of Christ the Thessalonians became moral example themselves in Macedonia and Achaia to others to emulate. The Thessalonians received the gospel and became Godly example even in the mist of personal persecution while sharing their faith with others.

**Verse 8** Paul tells the Thessalonians that their example of living Godly and their faith in the Lord spread far beyond Macedonia and Achaia, that he and his associates had no need to speak.

**Verse 9** Paul let the Thessalonians know that their walk or lifestyle demonstrated the effect he and his associates had among them and how they turned from worshipping idols to serve the living God.

**Verse 10** Paul is telling the Thessalonians that their relationship and faith in Christ has caused them to wait for the return of the Son from heaven, whom God raised from the dead, and who delivered him and them from the wrath to come.