

# 1 & 2 Thessalonians

66 Books in 52 Weeks

(A Book-by-Book Overview of the Bible)

## Summary & Structure of 1 Thessalonians

# 1 THESSALONIANS

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

13

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

5

TYPE

EPISTLE, PAULINE



## OVERVIEW

Paul stayed in Thessalonica approximately three months to help grow the seedling church. He wanted to return, but was not able to do so and sent Timothy check up on their faith, fearing that false teachers might have infiltrated their number. When Timothy returned giving a good report of the saints, Paul wrote this to the Thessalonians. He encouraged the people, expressing thankfulness for their faithfulness, and then taught about the death and Second Coming of the Lord.



WRITTEN  
51 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED  
All Eras in the Age of  
Grace



AUTHOR  
Apostle Paul

## Key Verse in 1 Thessalonians

*As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.*

1 Thessalonians 4:1

## Background of 1 Thessalonians

### General Background

*The City:* Large city situated at the crossroads of two major trade routes.

*Paul's Ministry:* Paul had helped to establish this church (Acts 17).

*Reasons for Writing:* Paul uses this letter to explain his ministry, encourage the church, and clarify his teaching on the second coming of Christ.

### Major Theme – The Second Coming of Christ

It rescues Christians from God's judgment (1 Thessalonians 1:10).

It is the time for glory, reward, and joy (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

It is the motivation for holy living (1 Thessalonians 3:13).

It is the hope and comfort for those in grief (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

It is the goal of sanctification (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

## Outline of 1 Thessalonians

### The Apostle's Heart (Chapters 1-3)

God's Word Remembered (1 Thessalonians 1)

Accusations Answered (1 Thessalonians 2)

Concerns Expressed (1 Thessalonians 3)

### The Apostle's Burden (Chapters 4-5)

Sexual Purity and Love (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12)

The Second Coming of Christ and the Day of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11)

Living in the Light (1 Thessalonians 5:12-28)

*In relationship with others:* In the relationships with others: (1) Appreciate & esteem leaders; (2) Live in peace; (3) Admonish, encourage, help, & show patience to each other; and (4) Not retaliate, but seek good for others.

*In relationship with the Lord:* (1) Rejoice, pray, give thanks; (2) Don't quench the Spirit or despise prophetic ministry; and (3) Abstain from every form of evil.

# Summary & Structure of 2 Thessalonians

## 2 THESSALONIANS

ORDER IN NEW TESTAMENT

14

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

3

TYPE

EPISTLE, PAULINE



### OVERVIEW

After a brief period, Paul wrote to the people of Thessalonica again. The excitement about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ had caused some discord in the church. Some of the believers in that church thought that Jesus had already returned, and others were prone to idleness. The church had also experienced increased persecution. This letter was penned to offer encouragement and correct any misunderstandings.



WRITTEN  
51-52 AD



TIME PERIOD COVERED  
All Eras in the Age of  
Grace



AUTHOR  
Apostle Paul

## Key Verse in 2 Thessalonians

*May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.*

*2 Thessalonians 3:5*

## Background of 2 Thessalonians

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul encouraged his readers to stand firm in the Lord and anticipate Christ's return.

Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians to combat a false rumor that the "Day of the Lord" had already come.

## Outline of 2 Thessalonians

Affirmation in the Midst of Affliction (Chapter 1)

Paul's Thankfulness and a Reminder

God's Justice (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10)

The Thessalonians' Faithfulness

Explanation of Prophecy (Chapter 2)

Paul describes the Day of the Lord to prove that it had not yet arrived.

Apostasy (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

Man of Lawlessness (2 Thessalonians 2:3-5)

The Restrainer (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7)

Judgment of Unbelievers (2 Thessalonians 2:10-13)

Clarification of Our Response (Chapter 3)

External Persecution (2 Thessalonians 3:1-5)

Paul requests prayer for deliverance from persecution.

Paul emphasizes God's faithfulness.

Paul prays that their lives would be characterized by love and perseverance.

Internal Discipline (2 Thessalonians 3:6-15)

Exhortation to not be idle in waiting Christ's return

Admonishment to warn the disobedient

## Lessons/Applications

The return of Christ gives the Christian \_\_\_\_\_ to face \_\_\_\_\_.

The return of Christ gives the Christian \_\_\_\_\_ to live a \_\_\_\_\_ life.

The return of Christ gives the Christian \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of loss.