

Williamsburg Community Chapel Men's Breakfast

February 1, 2019



Hunter, Everett (9), Blaire, Courtlyn (13), Kiefer (11), Spencer (5)

What are you waiting for?

How are you waiting for it?

The Book of 1 Thessalonians



#1 – Introduction to 1 Thessalonians

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Introduction to 1 Thessalonians: Background

- ***Authors:*** The Apostle Paul, Silvanus (Silas; *Acts 15*) and Timothy (*Acts 16*)
- ***Date written:*** c. A.D. 51
- ***Recipients:*** The Church at Thessalonica (*Acts 17:1-9*)
- ***Purpose:*** To encourage the Thessalonians to live faithfully in the midst of adversity until the authors themselves could visit them face to face or until the Lord Himself returned.



Thessalonica

Paul's Second Missionary Journey (A.D. 49-51)

Introduction to 1 Thessalonians: Background



Cassander, King of Macedonia (305-297 B.C.)

- **Cassander** renamed Thermai after his wife, Thessalonike (*“Victory against the Thessalians”*) in 315 B.C.
- Wealthiest city in the **Byzantine** Empire
- **Ottoman** occupation (1430-1912)
- Became part of **Greece** in 1912.

Introduction to 1 Thessalonians: Background



The White Tower of Thessalonica

- Today Thessalonica is called **Salonika**.
- It is the second largest city in Greece (over 1 million people).
- Greece's “**cultural capital**”
- Home to **Aristotle University** (the largest university in Greece).

Introduction to 1 Thessalonians: Acts 17:1-9



- **Paul's Second Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-18:22)**
- Macedonian Call (Acts 16:9-10)
- Thessalonica was about 90 miles west of Philippi on the *Via Egnatia*
- The gospel was a new concept at this time and place in history.

Introduction to 1 Thessalonians: Acts 17:1-9



- **17:3** - ... explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to **suffer** and **rise** from the dead ...
- **17:5** - But the Jews ... taking some wicked men from the rabble (ESV)
- ... *took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort (KJV)*

Introduction to 1 Thessalonians: Acts 17:1-9



- **17:6** - “...These men who **have turned the world upside down** have come here also.”
- **17:7** - “... they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that **there is another king, Jesus.**”
- Following Timothy’s report, Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians from Corinth.

Structure of 1 Thessalonians

- **Ch. 1 – Greeting** (gratitude and commendation)
- **Ch. 2 – Genuineness** of Paul's ministry
- **Ch. 3 – Good report** from Timothy
- **Ch. 4 – Holy living** and **hope** (in the return of Christ)
- **Ch. 5 – Live life of preparation** (for the return of Christ)



Themes of 1 Thessalonians

- **Faithfulness amidst affliction** (*1:6; 2:2, 14-16, 18; 3:3, 7, 9-10; see Acts 17:5-9*)
- **The future return/coming of Jesus Christ** (*1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:14-18; 5:2, 5, 9-10, 23*)
- References to the “**gospel,**” “**word of the Lord,**” and “**word of God**” (*1:5, 7; 2:2, 3, 8-9, 13, 3:2, 4:14*)
- **Sincere affection** for the Thessalonians (*1:2-4; 2:7-8, 11, 17-20; 3:1, 5-6, 11-12*)
- Exhortations to **love one another** (*1:3; 3:6, 12; 4:9; 5:13-15, 26*)

Themes of 1 Thessalonians

J. Vernon McGee's Threefold Purpose of 1 Thessalonians:

- (1) To ***confirm*** young converts in the elementary truth of the gospel;
- (2) to ***condition*** them to go on unto holy living; and
- (3) to ***comfort*** them regarding the return of Christ.



1 Thessalonians 1:1

- **Silvanus** = Silas (*Acts 15*)
- **Timothy** (*Acts 16*)
- Paul was not alone (*“We need each other.”*)
- **the church (ecclesia)** = “called out ones”
- **in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**
- **Grace and peace**



Introduction to 1 Thessalonians: Summary

1 Thessalonians is ...



Introduction to 1 Thessalonians: Summary

1 Thessalonians is ... *our call to wait well for Christ's return.*

What are you waiting for?

How are you waiting for it?

Assignment: Read 1 Thessalonians this week (10 minutes)

Next Week: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10



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