

Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians

An epistle of patience, hope, and
comfort.

Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians

Introduction

Paul to the Thessalonians

Likely his first epistle chronologically; his final epistle in canonical order of the 7 churches to which he wrote:

- The rapture of the BoC into the air
 - 4:17 “caught up...to meet the Lord in the air”
 - Acts 8:39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.
- Final words of patience, hope and comfort.
- An epistle of “doctrine” and “instruction”
 - No “reproof”; no “correction” (2Tim 3:16)

Paul to the Thessalonians - dates

- Colossians: a prison epistle A.D. 61-62
- Thessalonians: Paul's first epistle chronologically: A.D. 52
- Pastoral epistles cannon order after Thessalonians:
 - First epistle to: Timothy A.D. 64
 - Epistle to Titus A.D. 64
 - Instruction to Philemon A.D. 61-62
 - Philemon is a prison pastoral epistle
 - Second epistle to Timothy A.D. 66
- The cannon order, not the chronology, speaks to the BoC today.

Paul to the Thessalonians

- Paul at Thessalonica Acts 17:1-3

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

Paul to the Thessalonians



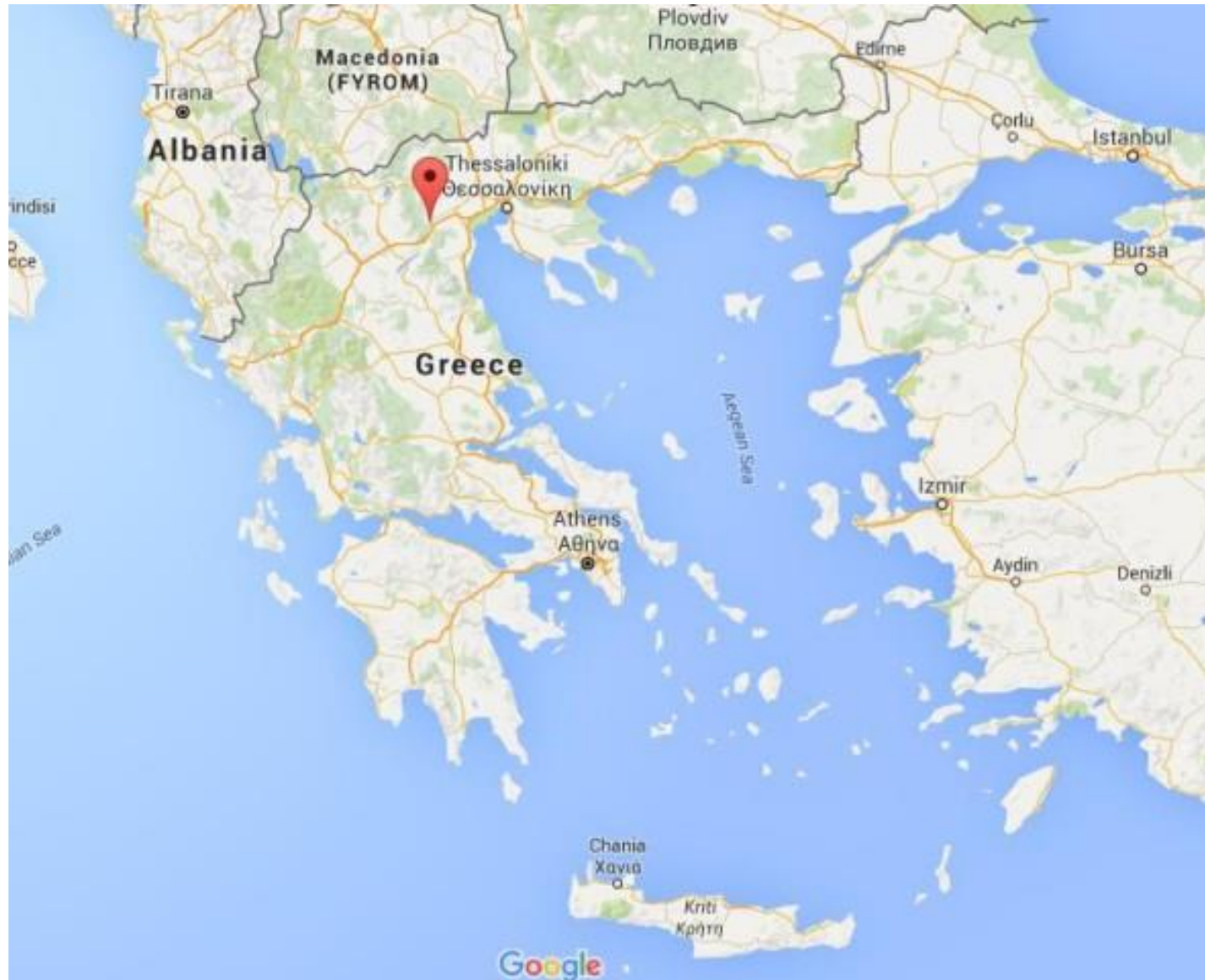
Paul to the Thessalonians

1st century Jewish synagogue in Veria, Greece; about 72km/45miles west of present day Thessaloniki, Greece.



Paul to the Thessalonians

1st century Jewish synagogue in Veria, Greece; about 72km/45miles west of present day Thessaloniki, Greece.



Paul to the Thessalonians

- Paul at Thessalonica Acts 17:4-5

And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

Paul to the Thessalonians

- Paul at Thessalonica Acts 17:6-9

And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, *one* Jesus.

And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.

And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

Paul to the Thessalonians

- Paul at Thessalonica Acts 17:1-9
 - v1, 2 went to a synagogue of the Jews
 - v3 preached the death, burial and resurrection
 - Jesus is Christ → Gospel of God:

Romans 1:1-3 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh

Paul to the Thessalonians

- Paul at Thessalonica Acts 17:1-15
 - v4 some of them (i.e.: Jews) believed:
 - “and of the devout Greeks a great multitude”
 - Greeks: language, customs, nationality
 - Not proselytes (not converted to Judaism)
 - Uncircumcised
 - Gentiles
 - Devout: religious, those that worship
 - Attended “a synagogue of the Jews”
 - Lineage/ethnicity is unstated!

Paul to the Thessalonians

- Paul at Thessalonica Acts 17:1-9
v4 “and of the devout Greeks a great multitude”

Q: Who can be called a “devout Greek”?

R: 1st a citizen of Greece (nationality!)

2nd faithfully religious

Q: What was Paul ethnically?

R: Paul was of the stock of Israel:

Philippians 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee

Paul to the Thessalonians

- Paul at Thessalonica Acts 17:1-9
v4 “and of the devout Greeks a great multitude”

Q: Can Paul, born of Hebrew lineage, be a Roman?

Acts 22:25-26 And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned? When the centurion heard *that*, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: Paul was born in Tarsus, Galatia which was a province of the Roman Empire.

Acts 9:11b “...and enquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth”

Acts 22:27-28 Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea. And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was *free* born.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Acts 22:28 And Paul said, But I was *free* born.

Note: Paul, a Hebrew, was also a Roman citizen

Note: The “devout Greeks” in Thessalonica were Hebrews with Greek citizenship...

...that’s the reason they went to synagogue.

Q: Who were the Thessalonian “devout Greeks”?

R: Uncircumcised Hebrew believers Paul

“called...brethren” 1Thes 2:12, 14 to whom Paul had been forbidden to speak...

...WHY???

Paul to the Thessalonians

- Paul at Thessalonica Acts 17:1-9
v5 “Jews which believed not, moved with envy”

Matthew 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Romans 10:19 But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by *them that are* no people, *and* by a foolish nation I will anger you.

Paul to the Thessalonians

- Paul at Thessalonica Acts 17:1-9
v5-9 “Jews which believed not, moved with envy”

The Jews searched for Paul and company at the house of Jason...arrested Jason and “certain brethren”...charged them, and let them go under conditions of bail.

Acts 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews.

Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians

A survey of some words and phrases
throughout the epistle

Paul to the Thessalonians

- Survey of wording in 1Thessalonians

Chapter 1

v1 unto the church...in God and in Christ

Note: Not the church “of” God

v4 “your election of God”

Note: who are the elect?

v5 “our gospel”

Note: Galatians 1:11-12 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 1

v5 “our gospel” (cont’d)

Note: 1Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you...

Colossians 1:23b ...the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister

Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 1

v6 “followers of us”

Q: Followers of who?!

v9 “to serve the living and true God”

Q: who is it that is to serve in the BoC?

v10 “to wait for his son from heaven”

Q: who is it that is to “wait”?

Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 1

v10 “...hath delivered us from the wrath to come”

Q: what has “delivered us from the wrath to come”?

Note: “delivered” - past tense.

Note: Observe that Israel has not yet been delivered as their deliverance is conditional:

2Kings 17:39 But the LORD your God ye shall fear; and he shall deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 2

v2, 8, 9 “gospel of God”

Q: What is the “gospel of God”?

v12 “who hath called you”

Q: Who are those that are “called”?

V14 “churches of God”

Q: Did not Paul persecute the “churches of God”?

Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 3

v2 “the gospel of Christ”

Q: What is the “gospel of Christ”?

v2 “to establish you”

Q: What is it to “establish” versus “stablish”?

v4 “we should suffer tribulation”

Q: Who is it that “should suffer tribulation”?

v8 “we live if we stand fast in the Lord”

Q: Why is living conditional?

Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 3

v10 “perfect that which is lacking in your faith”

Q: Who was in need of being perfected?

v13 “that he may stablish you”

Q: What is it to “establish” versus “stablish”?

v13 “coming...with all his saints”

Q: Who are the “saints” with whom the Lord Jesus is coming?

Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 4

v1 “to walk and to please God”

Q: Who ought “to walk and to please God”?

v2, 7, 11 “commanded” and “called”

Q: Who are the “commanded” and “called”?

v12 “walk honestly toward them that are without”

Q: Who are those that are “without”?

v13 “others which have no hope”

Q: Who are those that have “no hope”?

Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 4

v12 “to walk and to please God”

Q: Who ought “to walk and to please God”?

v14 “them also which sleep in Jesus”

Q: Who are these that Jesus will bring “with him”?

v15 “shall not prevent them which are asleep”

Q: What is it to “prevent them”?

v16 “a shout”... “the voice”... “the trump”

Q: What are these three matters?

Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 4

v17 “caught up together”

Q: What is it to be “caught up together”?

Q: After being caught up together, will the BoC return to earth to rule and reign with Christ on the earth?

Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 5

v2 “day of the Lord” comes as a thief in the night.

Q: What is the “day of the Lord”, and why does it come as a “thief in the night”?

v3 “for when they say, Peace and safety...”

Q: Who are “they”?

v9 “For God hath not appointed us to wrath...”

Q: What is “wrath”; does it differ from tribulation?

v12 “and are over you in the Lord”

Q: Who, today, is over you in the Lord?

Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians

First Thessalonians *Chapter One*

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: “Silvanus” – also called “Silas”; was with Paul in Philippi; after Thessalonica went on with him to Berea. He would have been a “circumcised” representative from Jerusalem.

Note: “Timotheus” – a representative from the uncircumcised

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and
Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians
which is in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus
Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our
Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: “the church of the Thessalonians” – they were
not called “the church of God”; it was a church “in
God...and in Christ”. This differentiates from the
churches of God of which Peter was an apostle (Acts
12:5).

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timothy, unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: “Grace” – if the Thessalonians had yet been under Law, as was the church in Jerusalem, Paul would have invoked mercy to those Thessalonians. “Grace” means no condemnation.

Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timothy, unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: One under “grace” has no need of “mercy” as grace covers it all.

Romans 4:6-7 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, *Saying*, Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timothy, unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: “peace” with God aforetime required a sacrifice:

Deuteronomy 27:7 And thou shalt offer peace offerings, and shalt eat there, and rejoice before the LORD thy God.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timothy, unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: The Body of Christ has “peace” with God enabled by Christ:

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶1 Thessalonians 1:2-5 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶1 Thessalonians 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

Romans 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers

Ephesians 1:16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers

Philemon 1:4 I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶1Thessalonians 1:2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

1Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

1Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men

- “supplications” ➡ request, petition
- “intercessions” ➡ prayer on behalf of another

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father

Note: Paul to the Corinthians:

1Corinthians 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

- “charity” ➡ “love”: benevolence

Note: Paul: the message did not change.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 1:4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

Note: Who are the elect of God?

1. 1Timothy 5:21 I charge *thee* before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels...
2. Isaiah 45:4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name

2Peter 1:10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

Note: Who are the elect of God?

3. 2Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Note: Israel, both Circumcised and Uncircumcised, are the elect of God. The word “also” points to the Uncircumcised Hebrew to whom Paul ministered.

Note: The Uncircumcised Hebrew was the rebellious, (Psalms 68:18) and “also” received gifts from God.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

Note: Paul preached the death, burial and resurrection of Christ:

1Corinthians 15:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

Note: Paul was credentialized to the Circumcised and Uncircumcised by “word”, “power”, “the Holy Ghost”:

Acts 15:12 Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them.

Acts 19:11 And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: Israel, the Hebrews, had come to expect “a sign” to know whether a matter was of God.

Not just a “miracle” alone!

The power and the word needed to be a match as follows:

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: The Law of Moses to Israel:

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;

Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: Deuteronomy 13:1-3 is crucial teaching to Israel in the time of Jacob's Trouble:

Revelation 13:11, 13-14 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. ...

And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:5 ...as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

Note: Paul was credentialized to the Circumcised and Uncircumcised by his manner:

1Corinthians 9:18 What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:5 ...and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

2Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2Corinthians 13:10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Further, Paul wrote of himself:

2Corinthians 10:8-10 For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed: That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters...

...For *his* letters, say they, *are* weighty and powerful; but *his* bodily presence *is* weak, and *his* speech contemptible.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶1Thessalonians 1:6-8 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶1Thessalonians 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost

Q: Who should members of the BoC follow?

R: 1Corinthians 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.

1Corinthians 4:16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶1Thessalonians 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost

Q: Who should members of the BoC follow?

R: (continued)

2Thessalonians 3:7, 9 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; ... Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

Note: “ensample”: a pattern or model of conduct

Note: “us”: Paul, Silvanus and Timotheus

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: Paul taught that he was the “ensample” (ie: pattern) to be followed as he followed Christ.

Q: What did Jesus teach about following Him, and to whom?

R: Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Matthew 8:22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: Paul taught that he was the “ensample” (ie: pattern) to be followed as he followed Christ.

Q: What did Jesus teach about following Him, and to whom? (continued)

R: Matthew 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me.

John 21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶1Thessalonians 1:6-8 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

1Thessalonians 3:7 Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith

Note: “affliction”: tribulation, trouble, persecution

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Q: What happened to Jason and certain brethren by the Jews in Thessalonica?

R: Acts 17:5-6, 9 But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; ... And when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 1:9-10 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

Acts 17:22-23, 32 Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. ...

...And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of *this matter*.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

Galatians 4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

Q: Who is “to serve the living and true God”?

R: Genesis 26:24 And the LORD appeared unto him the same night, and said, I *am* the God of Abraham thy father: fear not, for I *am* with thee, and will bless thee, and multiply thy seed for my servant Abraham's sake.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

Galatians 4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.

Q: Who is “to serve the living and true God”?
(continued)

R: Isaiah 41:8 But thou, Israel, *art* my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Note: “from”: preposition indicates direction

Note: v9 “to serve”: the Hebrew was called to occupy in service, and to wait, with a sense of “patience”:

Romans 8:24-25 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for it.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Note: “wrath”: anger, vengeance, indignation

We consider this matter in view of the following groups:

1st - The Body of Christ

2nd - The Children of Disobedience

3rd - The Remnant of Israel

4th - The Earth

Paul to the Thessalonians

The Body of Christ:

1Thessalonians 5:9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ

Note: The BoC is NOT appointed to God's wrath.

Note: "wrath": anger, vengeance, indignation

Paul to the Thessalonians

Disobedient Israel:

Colossians 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience

Note: “wrath” ➡ “the children of disobedience”

Note: “wrath”: anger, vengeance, indignation

Paul to the Thessalonians

The Remnant of Israel:

Israel, the nation, would have been destroyed by God had it not been for “a remnant according to the election of grace”.

Romans 11:1-3

I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin...

Paul to the Thessalonians

The Remnant of Israel:

Romans 11:1-3

...God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: Israel the nation ... “a remnant according to the election of grace”.

Romans 11:4-5 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of* Baal.

Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Note: This “grace” concerns “the election” of Israel; God’s reason for Israel’s election is His grace.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: Israel the nation ... “a remnant according to the election of grace”.

Isaiah 1:9 Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, *and* we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

Note: “wrath”: anger, vengeance, indignation

Note: “a very small remnant”: “I have reserved to myself seven thousand men” Romans 11:4

Exodus 20:3, 5 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. ... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: God “will try” Israel, the remnant –
Zechariah 13:9a And I will bring the third part through
the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and
will try them as gold is tried

Note: “will try them” ➡ “the day of trouble”

Note: The remnant of Israel shall be delivered from
“the day of trouble” under a condition:

Psalms 18:3 I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to
be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: The **remnant of Israel** will be tried:

Daniel 11:32-35

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, *many* days.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: The **remnant of Israel** will be tried:

Daniel 11:32-35

Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.

And *some* of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make *them* white, *even* to the time of the end: because *it is* yet for a time appointed.

Paul to the Thessalonians

The tried and purged **remnant of Israel**:

Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Paul to the Thessalonians

The tried and purged **remnant of Israel**:

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Zechariah 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

Paul to the Thessalonians

The tried and purged **remnant of Israel**:

Revelation 7:13-14 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Their time of deliverance to come:

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Note: “pray always”: “to escape” → “they shall call”

Psalms 50:15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Psalms 86:7 In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: The remnant of Israel...

... tried by “great tribulation”...

...NOT by “wrath”.

Note: “wrath”: anger, vengeance, indignation

Note: “tribulation”: distress, affliction, persecution

Note: to “try” a thing or matter is to prove a thing or matter to be as intended in name.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Note: “wrath”: anger, vengeance, indignation

We consider this matter in view of the following groups:

1st - The Body of Christ

2nd - The Children of Disobedience

3rd - The Remnant of Israel

and finally...

4th - The Earth

Paul to the Thessalonians

The Earth:

Revelation 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

Note: “wrath”: anger, vengeance, indignation

Isaiah 28:22 Now therefore be ye not mockers, lest your bands be made strong: for I have heard from the Lord GOD of hosts a consumption, even determined upon the whole earth.

Note: “consumption”: end, consume, riddance

Note: “upon” the earth – not the earth itself.

Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians

First Thessalonians *Chapter Two*

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:1-4 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

For our exhortation *was* not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:1-2 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

Note: “vain”: empty, without purpose

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:1-2 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

Note: Acts 16:12-40 Paul and Silas were beaten and jailed in Philippi; the Philippian jailer saved.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:1-2 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

Note: Acts 16:13-15 Lydia worshipped God. She believed the things told her by Paul:
“Gospel of God” ➡ Jesus is the Christ

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:3-4

For our exhortation *was* not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Note: “exhortation” ➡ a calling: certain of the uncircumcised Hebrews in Thessalonica were called, and at that time “were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel”.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:3-4

For our exhortation *was* not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Note: “deceit”: error

“uncleanness”: motives (?)

“guile”: subtlety, craftiness

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:3-4

For our exhortation *was* not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Note: Not a trick on Paul's part to gain the favor of those men there in Thessalonica: Paul was "allowed of God".

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:5-8 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God *is* witness:

Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:5-6 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God *is* witness:

Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

Note: 1Thessalonians 1:5 “...ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.”

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:5-6 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God *is* witness:

Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

Note: as an apostle of Christ, Paul could have invoked authority over the Thessalonians expecting of them to support and take care of him: “we might have been burdensome”.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:7-8 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:
So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

Note: “gospel of God” ➡ Jesus is Christ

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:7-8 But we were gentle among you,
even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were
willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of
God only, but also our own souls, because ye were
dear unto us.

Note: Paul was willing to die that they might have life.

2Corinthians 4:12 So then death worketh in us, but
life in you.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Note: no financial support was expected of them by Paul who worked, “labouring night and day” to support himself.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Note: “gospel of God” ➡ Jesus is Christ

The prophets and Jesus all declared what was to happen to the Christ:

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:9 ...we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Note: “gospel of God” → Jesus is Christ

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and *of* the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:9 ...we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Note: “gospel of God” → Jesus is Christ

Luke 7:19 And John calling *unto him* two of his disciples sent *them* to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

Luke 24:21 But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is **the third day** since these things were done.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:9 ...we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Note: “gospel of God” → Jesus is Christ

John 20:24-25 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, **Except I shall see** in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

Zechariah 13:6 And *one* shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands?

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:9 ...we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Note: “gospel of God” → Jesus is Christ

Acts 3:15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath **raised from the dead**; whereof we are witnesses.

Note: ~A.D. 33

Acts 9:20, 22 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. ... But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

Note: ~A.D. 34

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:9 ...we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Note: “gospel of God” → Jesus is Christ

Acts 17:3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

Note: 1Thessalonians ~ A.D.54

1Corinthians 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

Note: 1Corinthians ~ A.D.59

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:9 ...we preached unto you the gospel of God. (Note: understanding the gospel of God)

Romans 1:1-6 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by **the resurrection from the dead**: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ (Romans ~A.D. 60)

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:9 ...we preached unto you the gospel of God. (Note: understanding the gospel of God)

Paul preached the Gospel of God:

Ephesians 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*

Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Note: Paul's prison epistles ~A.D. 64; continued declaration of the Gospel of God.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 2:9 ...we preached unto you the gospel of God.

In summary:

1. Jesus is Christ – the promise
2. Jesus is alive – the resurrection
3. Jesus can save – the calling

Note: The Gospel of Christ is at the same time also being declared by Paul separated not by time, but by audience and dispensation.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:10-12 Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:
As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,
That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:10 Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe

Note: Paul's behaviour among those that believed:

1. Holily – separated to the calling
2. Justly – doing what is right
3. Unblameably – without cause for correction

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:11 *Ye are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,

That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Note:

1. Exhorted – to urge (e.g.: to an action)
2. Comforted – strengthen spiritually
3. Charged – task/duty laid; a commission

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:10-12 Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:
As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,
That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called

Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God

Note: the “called” ➡ “walk worthy”; they will be judged for their service:

Judgment seat of **Christ** ↔ Judgment seat of **Messiah!**

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Note: Not hyperbole, Paul wrote truth: he thanked God “without ceasing”.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:14-16 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

Note: Kingdom churches of God believed Jesus is the Christ: promised, and risen from the dead.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Kingdom churches of God believed Jesus is the
Christ: promised, risen, to be called upon...

...in the Day of Trouble

Psalms 20:1 *[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.]*

The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name
of the God of Jacob defend thee

Psalms 50:15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I
will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever
shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

Note: Events recorded in Acts 17:5-9

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:15 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:15 Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men

Note: “killed...Jesus...their own prophets”:

Matthew 23:31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

Acts 7:52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:16 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

→ all along, perpetually
always: at every time, at every occasion

Note: out of “envy” was Paul being attacked by the Jews: “the Jews which believed not, moved with envy”

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:16 ...Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

Disobedient Israel:

Colossians 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience

Note: “wrath”: anger, vengeance, indignation

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:17-20 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.

Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

For ye are our glory and joy.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:17-20 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.

Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

Note: “hinder”: to keep back, delay or stop action, to put obstacles in the way

2Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Note: Paul was ever aware of Satan’s devices.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 2:19-20

For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing?

Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

For ye are our glory and joy.

Note: the “called”, those over whom Paul laboured, are to be his glory and joy “in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming”.

Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians

First Thessalonians *Chapter Three*

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:1-3 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:4-5 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:1-3 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

Note: “forbear”: to endure the absence

Paul to the Thessalonians


¶ 1Thessalonians 3:1-3 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

Note: Timotheus: also chosen to be a soldier:

2Timothy 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:1-3 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.



To introduce and secure permanent acceptance for (a belief)
stablish: to make secure, strengthen, reinforce

Note: Paul transitions to the “gospel of Christ”. Paul terms this transition in Romans 1:17 as being “from faith to faith”.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: the gospel of God: the good news of God

Q: What is the gospel of God?

R: Romans 1:1-4 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; ...

...And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: the gospel of Christ: the good news of Christ

Q: What is the gospel of Christ?

R: 1Corinthians 15:1-2, 3-4, 11 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved...

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:... Therefore whether *it were* I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note:

the Gospel of God **≠** the Gospel of Christ

Peter's confession:

Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said,
Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

The church in Jerusalem shared in common belief in
the Gospel of God, and the identity of Christ.

Paul preached both gospels to the churches of the
Body of Christ:

1. They needed to know Christ had come, then
2. Understand salvation in His resurrection.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note:

the Gospel of God **≠** the Gospel of Christ

Q: Was the news of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ good news to the disciples?

R: Matthew 16:21-22 ...began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Q: Why was the news of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ NOT good news to any Hebrew?

R: John 12:32-34 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.

The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?

Q: What Scriptures say Christ will abide forever?

Paul to the Thessalonians

R: John 12:34 We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever ...

Psalm 72:17 His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and *men* shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.

Psalm 102:25-26 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens *are* the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure

Paul to the Thessalonians

R: John 12:34 We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever ...

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: Paul first preached the Gospel of God, and then “established” them in the Gospel of Christ.

Q: Why did Paul preach first the Gospel of God?

R: The called saints needed to know the identity of Christ: fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Q: Were the called saints saved by the Gospel of God?

R: No, but rather “in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith”
1Thessalonians 3:2

Paul to the Thessalonians

The Gospel of Christ:

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Note: “from” first believing the “Gospel of God”
“to” then believing the “Gospel of Christ”

Paul to the Thessalonians

Q: Was the gospel preached by the apostle Peter the same gospel as that preached by the apostle Paul?

R: Consider the following:

Comparing the preaching of Peter and Paul:

[illegible]

Comparing the preaching of Peter and Paul:

[illegible]

Comparing the preaching of Peter and Paul:

| Peter preached: | Paul preached: |
|--|---|
| Ye <u>men of Israel</u> , hear <u>these words</u> Acts 2:22 | <u>Brethren</u> , the gospel which I preached unto you 1Cor 15:1 |
| <u>Call to be saved</u> Acts 2:21 | By which also <u>ye are saved</u> 1Cor 15:2 |
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| slain by wicked hands Acts 2:23 | Christ died for our sins 1Cor 15:3 |
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| slain by wicked hands Acts 2:23 | Christ died for our sins 1Cor 15:3 |
| patriarch David is both dead and <u>buried</u> Acts 2:29 | Jesus was <u>buried</u> 1Cor 15:4 |
| | |
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| | |

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| patriarch David is both dead and <u>buried</u> Acts 2:29 | Jesus was <u>buried</u> 1Cor 15:4 |
| This Jesus hath God <u>raised up</u> Acts 2:32 | Jesus <u>rose again</u> 1Cor 15:4 |
| | |
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| patriarch David is both dead and <u>buried</u> Acts 2:29 | Jesus was <u>buried</u> 1Cor 15:4 |
| This Jesus hath God <u>raised up</u> Acts 2:32 | Jesus <u>rose again</u> 1Cor 15:4 |
| <u>Do: repent</u> , be <u>baptized</u> in the name of Jesus Christ <u>for remission of sins</u> and to <u>receive the gift</u> of the Holy Ghost Acts 2:38 | God for Christ's sake <u>hath forgiven</u> <u>you</u> . Eph 4:32 Quickened together with him <u>having</u> <u>forgiven you all</u> trespasses Col 2:13 |
| | |

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| <u>The promise</u> is unto you; some gladly received <u>his words</u> Acts 2:39, 41 Behold...endure. James 5:11 | ...and so <u>ye believed</u> . 1Cor 15:11 ...after that, ye were sealed. Eph 1:13 |

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 3:4-5 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 3:4-5 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

Note: “tribulation”: distress, affliction, persecution

Q: Who is the “we” that should suffer tribulation?

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 3:4-5 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation

R: Paul speaks of himself, and of the Thessalonians:

1Thessalonians 2:2, 14 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention. ... For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 3:4-5 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation

Note: “tribulation”: distress, affliction, persecution

Q: Who is the “we” that should suffer tribulation?

Acts 9:15-16 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 3:4-5 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation

Note: “tribulation”: distress, affliction, persecution

Q: Who is the “we” that should suffer tribulation?

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 3:4-5 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

Note: “labour be in vain”

Philippians 2:15-16 ...in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:6-8 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see* you: Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith: For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

Paul to the Thessalonians

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1Thessalonians 3:2 And sent Timotheus ... to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:6-8 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see you*: Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith: For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:6-8 But now when Timothy came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see you*: Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith: For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

Note: Paul: “now we live” knowing they are standing fast in the Lord.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:9-10 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God; Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

Paul to the Thessalonians

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Note: Paul desired to be with the Thessalonians again to help them where their faith may have been lacking.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:11-13 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Note: Paul prays God will take him back again to the Thessalonians: Acts 20:1-4; this second visit likely being a few years following the first.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ Acts 20:1-4 ... Paul called unto *him* the disciples, and embraced *them*, and departed for to go into Macedonia. And when he had gone over those parts, and had given them much exhortation, he came into Greece, And *there* abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through Macedonia. And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of Berea; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

Note: approximately A.D. 57~58

Paul to the Thessalonians

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Note: “love toward”: inclusive of the “partakers of the benefit” 1Timothy 6:2

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:11-13 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Note: “stablish”: to make secure, strengthen, reinforce that which has been established.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:11-13 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Note: “unblameable”: without cause for correction

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 3:11-13 ...To the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Note: “with all his saints”: 1Thessalonians 4:14b
“...even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him”

2Thessalonians 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him

Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians

First Thessalonians *Chapter Four*

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:1-2 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:1-2 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

Note: “beseech”: to seek after, to try to get

Note: “brethren”: Paul writing to the larger audience.

Note: “exhort”: those “called”; “*you*” Hebrew saints.

The word “*you*” inserted by the KJB translators for clarity as to audience:

1Thessalonians 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:1-2 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

1Thessalonians 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God

Note: “how ye ought to walk”: a command to those called...

...and to all other of the brethren:

wisdom

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:1-2 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

Note: “commandments”: those called were under the command of the Apostle Paul as he followed Christ:

2Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no *man* go beyond and defraud his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication

Note: those “called” were sanctified: set apart.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God

Note: “vessel”: metaphor – chosen instrument

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God

Note: “vessel”: metaphor – chosen instrument

2Timothy 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God

Note: “vessel”: metaphor – chosen instrument

1Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God → Coveting of carnal things; desire for things of the world

Note: “Gentiles which know not God”: differentiates from Gentiles which knew God.

Romans 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God

Note: “Gentiles which know not God”: differentiates from Gentiles which knew God.

2Thessalonians 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no *man* go beyond and defraud his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. To dishonestly withhold from another person; cheat

For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no *man* go beyond and defraud his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

Paul writing and warning to the “called”.



Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:9-12 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:9-12 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

Q: Where is this “taught of God”?

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

John 15:12, 17 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. ... These things I command you, that ye love one another.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye love one another* with a pure heart fervently

1John 3:11, 23 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ... And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

1John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:9-12 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

Here is a verse that a protestant minister may use today as a way for the believer to avoid being under the whole Law:

Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:9-12 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

The following verses of Jesus' words are often preached by non-dispensational ministers, and so taught to avoid being under the whole Law...

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ Matthew 22:34-35 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked *him a question*, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.

And the second *is* like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:9-12 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

Paul to the Thessalonians

To the “ye” commanded by Paul:

1. study to be quiet
2. do your own business
3. work with your own hands
4. walk honestly

For those “called”, Paul’s words were commandments.
We today, which are alive and remain, Paul’s words
are...

Wisdom

Paul to the Thessalonians

To the “ye” *commanded* by Paul:

1. study to be quiet
2. do your own business
3. work with your own hands
4. walk honestly

Paul’s expectations of the “called saints”:

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence...

“...*ye have always obeyed...*”

Paul to the Thessalonians

Q: Why should believers today heed the *wisdom* written by Paul?

R: 2Corinthians 6:3 Giving no offence in any thing,
that the ministry be not blamed

Paul to the Thessalonians

The final section of chapter 4, verses 13-18

Paul addresses the Thessalonians' concerns of those that have already died: "the dead in Christ".

In verses 13-18 we will examine use of the words:

- Asleep
- Sorrow
- Hope/no hope
- Believe Jesus died and rose again
- Them...will God bring with him
- We which are alive and remain
- The coming of the Lord
- Shall not prevent them

Paul to the Thessalonians

The final section of chapter 4, verses 13-18:

... we examine (continued):

- Shout, voice, trump
- Dead in Christ
- We which are alive and remain
- Caught up
- Together
- In the clouds

Paul to the Thessalonians

The final section of chapter 4, verses 13-18:

... we examine (continued):

- Meet the Lord
- In the air, and so shall we ever be
- Comfort

In preparation for our study of these remaining five verses in chapter 4, we first consider something Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

Paul to the Corinthians:

*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen,
nor ear heard, neither have entered into
the heart of man, the things which God
hath prepared for them that love him.*

1Corinthians 2:9

The prophet Isaiah wrote to Israel:

*For since the beginning of the world men
have not heard, nor perceived by the
ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God,
beside thee, what he hath prepared for
him that waiteth for him.*

Isaiah 64:4

Paul also wrote to the Corinthians:

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1Corinthians 2:10

Q: When and where did God reveal these “deep things of God” to the Apostle Paul?

R: It started at Lystra, a city of Lycaonia in the province of Galatia (modern day Turkey).

Lystra is the city in which Paul was stoned to death.

Paul also wrote to the Corinthians:

Acts 14:19-20

And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

Note: The Jews that stoned Paul deemed him dead!

17th century English: supposing = deemed

(per unabridged Oxford English dictionary)

Paul also wrote to the Corinthians:

2Corinthians 12:1-7

It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

Paul also wrote to the Corinthians:

2Corinthians 12:1-7

Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but *now* I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me *to be*, or *that* he heareth of me.

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

Paul also wrote to the Corinthians:

2Corinthians 12:1-7

Q: What can be noted from this account?

R: Paul knew when, and how the event occurred:

1. A revelation of God not dreamt.
2. Involved a man; surmised: Paul.
3. Conscious of being “caught up”.
4. Not concerned of the state of his body.
5. Intact recollection of the two locations:
 1. The third heaven – Paul saw the third heaven!
 2. Paradise – Paul heard words while in Paradise!
6. Remembered the words he had heard.
7. Understood that heard was “unspeakable”.
8. A thorn to ensure his silence of words.

Paul also wrote to the Corinthians:

Note: Paul's account in 2Corinthians 12:1-7 is WHY he was able to write and say:

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:10

Paul wrote to Timothy:

Q: How did Paul phrase in 2Timothy 4:6 the thought of his death to Timothy, knowing his time on earth would soon come to an end?

R: Multiple choice: "...the time of my..."

~~✗~~1. "...rest from labour cometh."

~~✗~~2. "...sleep draweth nigh."

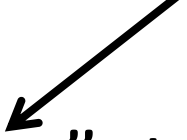
3. "...departure is at hand."

Paul wrote to Timothy:

This is how Paul worded his thought on death to Timothy knowing his time on earth would soon come to an end:

2Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

Note: “departure”: to divide or part among persons; the action of setting out, or starting on a journey.



Paul to the Thessalonians

So...with that as background we are now prepared to study verses 13-18 of chapter 4...

...and, in great detail!

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:13-14 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:13-14 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

Note: “ignorant brethren”: not that the brethren were stupid...the brethren were ignorant: they were yet to be taught concerning some matters.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:13-14 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

Note: “them” associates with “hope” even as “others” associates with “no hope”:

death = separation → others → no hope → sorrow

sleep ≠ separation → them → hope → sorrow not

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:13-14 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:13-14 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Note: the gospel of the grace of God: Jesus died and rose again → Jesus saves!

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:13-14 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Note: “sleep in Jesus” → “hope”

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:13-14

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

Note: “bring with him” → the “new creature” is already with Jesus since He will bring it back with Him to receive their new bodies:

2Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:15-18 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

Note: Evidence that some of the Thessalonian brethren had died.

Note: Previously, they had been told to “wait” for the return of Jesus:

1Thessalonians 1:10a And to wait for his Son from heaven

2Thessalonians 3:5b ...the patient waiting for Christ.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

Even as others had by Paul been told to wait:

1Corinthians 1:7b ...waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

Note: The Thessalonian brethren were concerned: would those yet alive at the coming of the Lord cause delay in the resurrection of those brethren that had died?

“prevent”: to act before or more quickly than another; precede.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

Note: Paul details, in verses 16-17, the step by step elements of Jesus return to catch up the Body over which He is head.

Paul's Epistle 1Thessalonians

Chapter 4 (paused)

**Refresh our view of the Body over
which Christ is Head
The beginnings of the BoC**

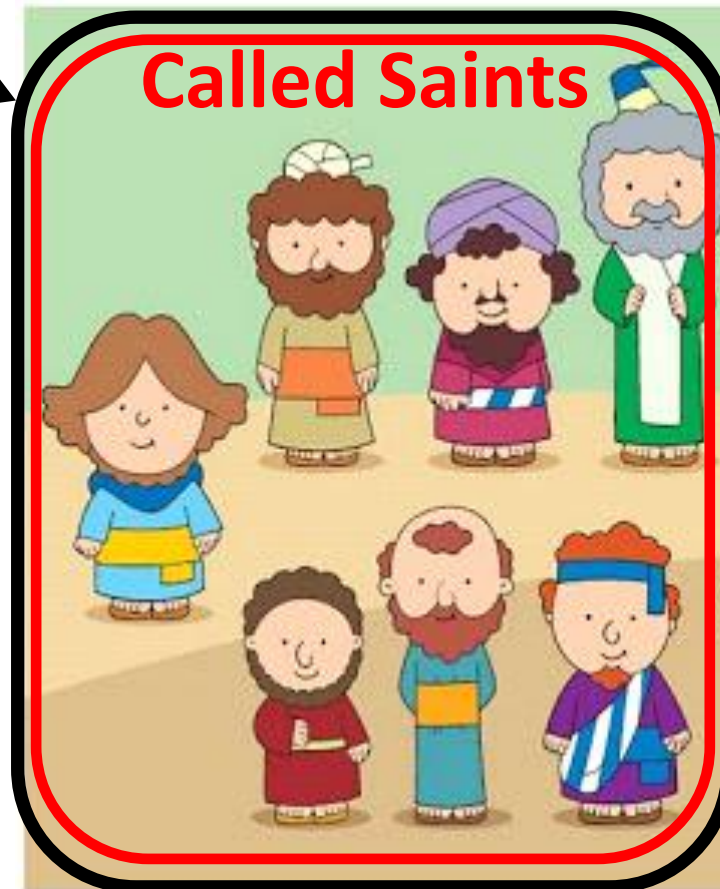
The Body of Christ: beginnings

Psalm 68:18 Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, ***for the rebellious also***, that the LORD God might dwell *among them*.

Body of Christ initial members



Apostle Paul
Timothy called



“The Rebellious”

Gentiles in the flesh:
the Uncircumcised
Hebrew

“Fellowservants”

“called to be saints”
were under Paul’s
“command” (1Thess
4:11); expected to
“obey” (2Thess 3:14).

The Body of Christ: beginnings

REMINDER – The “called saints” are together with the “faithful brethren” in the Body over which Christ is head:

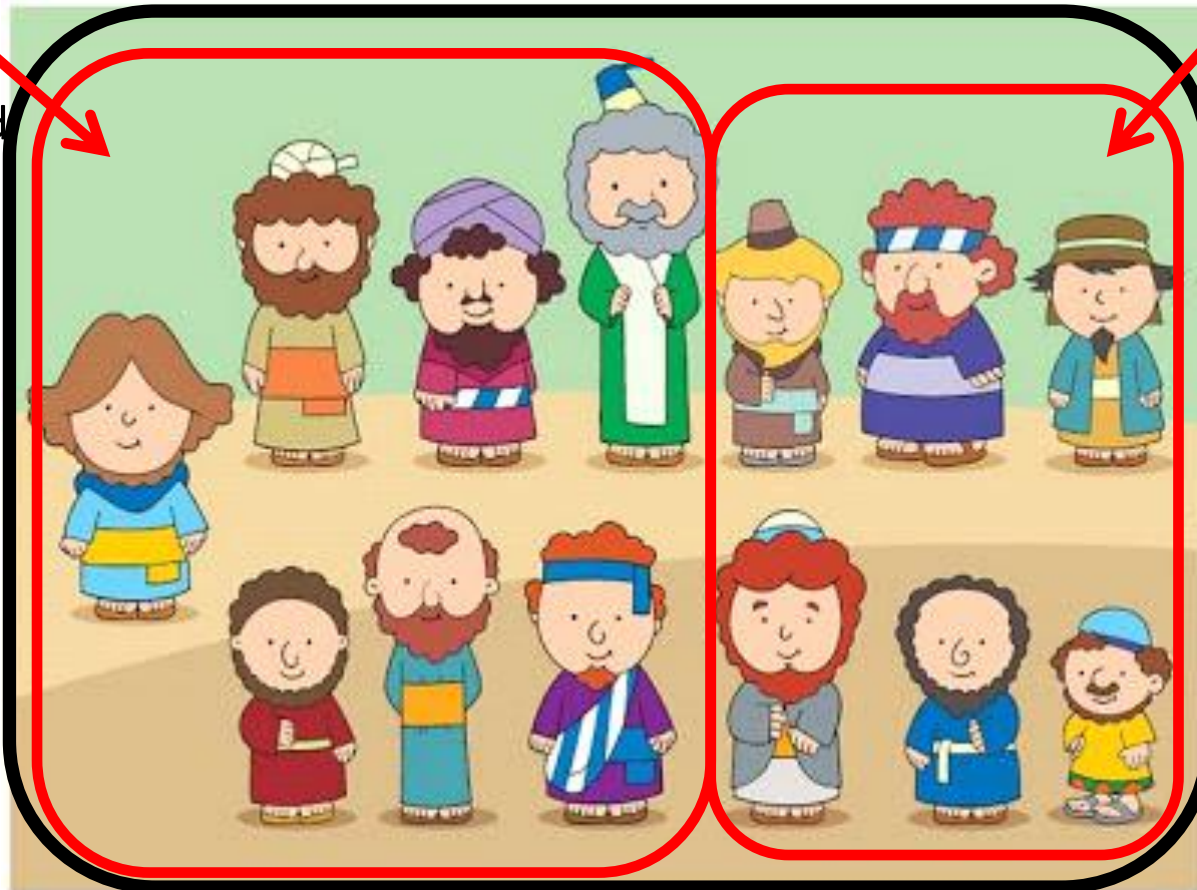
Called Saints

Body of Christ
all saved and sealed

Faithful Brethren

Of Paul:

- ✓ commanded
- ✓ obeyed
- ✓ workmen
- ✓ served
- ✓ wisdom
- ✓ knowledge
- ✓ understand
- ✓ ministry be not blamed
- ✓ suffered
- ✓ judged
- ✓ rewarded
- ✓ inheritance



via Paul:

- ✓ partakers of the benefit
 - ✓ beloved
- And thru the called saints:
- ✓ wisdom
 - ✓ knowledge
 - ✓ understanding

The Body of Christ: beginnings

The “called saints” being “members in particular”, along with their vocation and gifts, are all long ago departed from the earth...

...leaving behind “we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord”...

The Body of Christ: progression

...“faithful brethren”: all that are alive and remain on earth of the Body over which Christ is head:

Body of Christ

them which
sleep in
Jesus



**Faithful
Brethren:**
alive and
remain

Of Paul:

- ✓ wisdom
- ✓ knowledge
- ✓ understanding
- ✓ partakers of the benefit
- ✓ beloved
- ✓ ministry be not blamed

The Body of Christ...

Paul wrote to the faithful brethren, partakers of the benefit and beloved, alive, and remain, for their comfort...

...And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1Thessalonians 1:10

The Body of Christ: beginnings

Ephesians 2:11-13 Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

The Body of Christ: beginnings

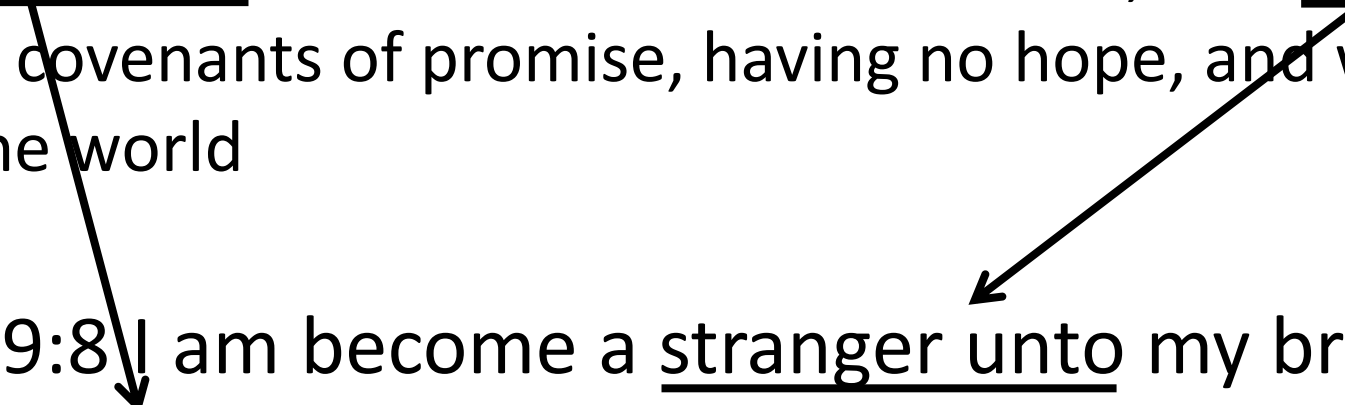
Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world

Note: “commonwealth of Israel”: Hebrew origins
“covenants of promise”: given to Hebrews

The Body of Christ: beginnings

Ephesians 2:12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world

Psalm 69:8 I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.



Note: “from”: preposition-motion directed away
“unto”: preposition-motion directed towards

Paul's Epistle 1Thessalonians

Chapter 4 (continued)

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Q: From where does the Lord descend?

R: from heaven: preposition-motion directed away

Q: Where are those (new creature 2Cor 5:17) that are asleep?

R: Present with the Lord to descend from heaven!

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Note: Three elements included with the description of the Lord's descent from heaven:


1. With a shout
2. With the voice of the archangel
3. With the trump of God

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: Three very familiar elements to the Hebrew:

1. a shout
2. a voice
3. a trump

Where else do these elements occur in the Bible?

Nehemiah 4:20 In what place *therefore* ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us
 you come here

Job 37:2 Hear attentively the noise of his voice, and the sound *that* goeth out of his mouth.

Psalms 47:5 God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: Israel understood the trumpet as a call to assemble:

Numbers 10:1-3 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.

 Traveling: from one location to another

And when they shall blow with them, all the assembly shall assemble themselves to thee...

Paul to the Thessalonians

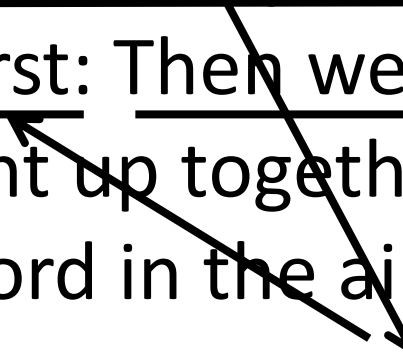
Note: Israel understood the trumpet as a call to assemble:

Numbers 10:4, 6 And if they blow *but* with one trumpet, then the princes, *which are* heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee. ... When ye blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall take their journey: they shall blow an alarm for their journeys.

Note: “the second time” is the last trump; it is to call those at the rear... (of the bus!)

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:16b-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.



the first trump

Note: “the dead in Christ shall rise first”: includes the “called saints” of Paul...they rise at the first trump.

Note: “we which are alive and remain”: includes the rest of the Body of Christ ... at the “last trump” 1Cor 15:52

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Note: The called saints rise first along with those that have since died.

Note: The remainder, those yet alive, are then to be caught up with those of the first group. The meetings will be in the air.

Paul to the Corinthians:

¶ 1Corinthians 15:50-53 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.



Note: “a mystery” proves Paul is not writing of the 2nd coming; 2nd coming of Christ is not a mystery.

Paul to the Corinthians:

¶ 1Corinthians 15:50-53 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.



the first trump

Paul to the Corinthians:

¶ 1Corinthians 15:50-53 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

Note: the colon and commas indicate a list that explains the sequence to “the last trump”.

Paul to the Corinthians:

¶ 1Corinthians 15:50-53 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

At the last trump

The diagram consists of three arrows. One arrow points from the underlined word 'mortal' in the text above to the text 'At the last trump' below. Another arrow points from the underlined word 'immortality' in the text above to the same text 'At the last trump'. A third arrow points from the underlined word 'incorruption' in the text above to the text 'At the first trump' to the right.

At the first trump

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Note: The phrase “meet the Lord in the air” is punctuated with a colon

The colon set the words that follow as an explanation: having met the Lord in the air the BoC will “ever be with the Lord”: “up”

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1Thessalonians 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

###

Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians

First Thessalonians *Chapter Five*

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:1-2 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:1-2 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Note: The risen Christ to His disciples:

Acts 1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:1-2 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Note: Concerning Israel:

Daniel 2:20-21 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: The prophet Daniel “the times and the seasons” which is a matter that concerns Israel:

Daniel 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons:
he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth
wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know
understanding

Paul to the Thessalonians

Note: Summary – the times and the season concerns the Hebrews and the prophetic word:

1. God removes kings
2. God sets up kings

For the Kingdom saints: NOT for them to know.

For the BoC saints: No need to write, and for the same reason.

(Not telling “Christians” that one needs not to vote!)

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:1-2 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Isaiah 2:12 For the day of the LORD of hosts *shall be* upon every *one that is* proud and lofty, and upon every *one that is* lifted up; and he shall be brought low

Isaiah 13:6, 9 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD *is* at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. ...

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:1-2 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Note: Both Kingdom, and called saints know perfectly how the day of the Lord will come.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:1-2 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Q: Who is “the thief”?

R: Matthew 24:44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Matthew 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Q: Who is “the goodman of the house”?

Note: “goodman of the house” = householder

Paul to the Thessalonians

Q: Who is “the goodman of the house”?

Note: “goodman of the house” = householder

R: Matthew 4:8-9 ...the devil taketh him...and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world ...

And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Job 21:28 For ye say, Where *is* the house of the prince?

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:1-2 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

2Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:3-4 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Q: Who are the “they”?

R: “they” \neq “ye, brethren”.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:3-4 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Daniel 8:25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify *himself* in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:3-4 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Esther 8:6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:3-4 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Jeremiah 6:1 O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Bethhaccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:3-4 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Mark 13:14-16 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter *therein*, to take any thing out of his house: And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:3-4 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Lamentations 3:48 Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people.

Ezekiel 7:25 Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and *there shall be none.*

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:3-4 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Hosea 7:13 Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Job spoke of the house of the prince (Job 21:28a)

Jesus spoke of the devil as the prince of this world:

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

John 14:30 Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

John 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Paul to the Thessalonians

Paul spoke of the devil as a prince, and as a god:

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience

2Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:3-4 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Job 11:20 But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope *shall be as* the giving up of the ghost.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:3-4 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Job 11:20 But the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and they shall not escape, and their hope *shall be as* the giving up of the ghost.

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:3-4 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Isaiah 26:17 Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, *and* crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD.

Note: As a woman knows the time for her child to be born, the devil also will know something...

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:3-4 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Note: The devil will know when his time is short.

Revelation 12:12 ...for the devil ... knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:5-7 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober.

For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Note: “children” is often a reference to Israel; check the context to determine.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Note: Example references to “the children of Israel”:

- Children of God Rom 8:16
- Children of the living God Rom 9:26
- Children of Abraham Gal 3:7
- Children of the promise Gal 4:28
- Children of disobedience Eph 2:2
- Children of wrath Eph 2:3
- Children of light Eph 5:8

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Note: Paul, writing to the called saints in Rome:

Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

subject Infinitive verb: used to answer object

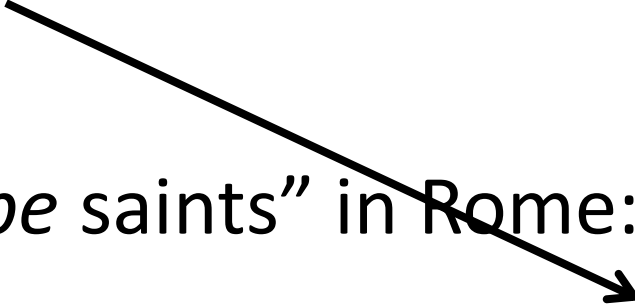
Note: there were those that Paul specifically “called *to be* saints”.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Paul, to the “called *to be* saints” in Rome:

Romans 13:12-13 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.



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lewd indulgence

Paul to the Thessalonians

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Paul, to the called saints in Rome:

Romans 13:12-13 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

extravagant living; conduct



Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:6-7

Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober.

For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

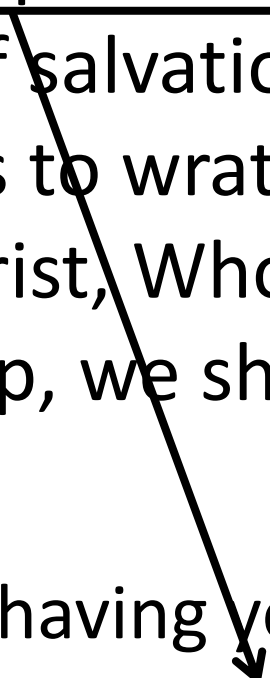
Again, to the “called *to be* saints” in Rome:

Romans 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:8-10 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness



Paul to the Thessalonians

1Thessalonians 5:8-10 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

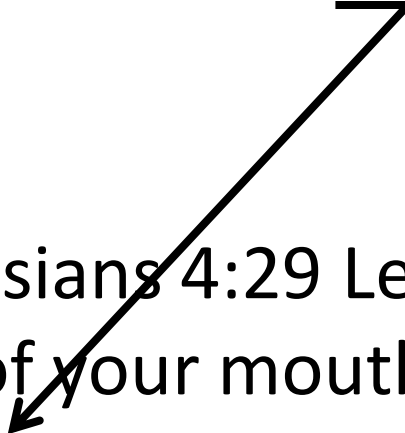
to build up, strengthen, support

Ephesians 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.



Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:12-13 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.

Note: Points to the time when there were “called *to be saints*” who had been:

1. given a vocation
2. gifted
3. members in particular

Today, *all* members of the BoC are *completely equal*.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:14-15 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*. See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.

Lacking intellectual or moral strength

Macaulay Misc writings (1860):

Rigid principles often do for feeble minds what stays do for feeble bodies.

→ **legalistic thinking**

Paul to the Thessalonians

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Note: try if you will...it usually does not go well.

This was for the time when there were “called *to be* saints”:

1. given a vocation
2. gifted
3. members in particular

Today, *all* members of the BoC are *completely equal*.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice evermore.

Pray without ceasing.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:19-22

Quench not the Spirit.

Despise not prophecyings.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Note: NOT limited to foretelling of future events...
...but speaking instruction before/to others.



Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:23-28 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Corinthians 1:8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: “blameless” when?

the coming, and the day of our Lord Jesus Christ

Note: Day of our Lord Jesus Christ = Day of Christ

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:23b ...be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: Day of our Lord Jesus Christ = Day of Christ

Philippians 1:10 ...that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ

Philippians 2:16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

2Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:23-28 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Corinthians 1:8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, *that ye may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Note: the Day of Christ \neq the Day of the Lord

1Thessalonians 5:2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

Note: a day of flaming fire taking vengeance 2Th 1:8

Paul to the Thessalonians

¶ 1Thessalonians 5:23-28 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

Brethren, pray for us.

Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.

I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

Note: Evidence the holy brethren could not all read

Paul to the Thessalonians

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I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you.

Amen.

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