

I Thessalonians God's Got You if You Have Him

The Place

Historical Background

Thessalonica was located at **the intersection of two major Roman roads**, one leading from **Italy eastward (Ignatia Way)** and the other from the **Danube to the Aegean**. Thessalonica's location and use as a port made it a prominent city. In 168 BC it became the capital of the second district of **Macedonia** and later it was made the capital and major port of the whole Roman province of **Macedonia** (146 BC). In 42 BC, after the battle at Philippi, Thessalonica was made a free city. Today the modern city of Thessaloniki is the second most important city of Greece and home to a million inhabitants.

The Founding of the Work around A.D. 53

Acts 17:1-7

1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:

2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and **three sabbath days** reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

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.

4 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.

5 **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.**

6 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;**

7 Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Cæsar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus.

The record of their Christian maturity around A.D. 60

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of **Macedonia**;

2 How **that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.**

3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

4 Praying us with much intreaty that **we would receive the gift**, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

5 And this **they did**, not as we hoped, but **first gave their own selves to the Lord**, and unto us by the will of God.

Author: Paul

Date Written: A.D. 51

Key People: Paul, Silas and Timothy

Number of Chapters: 5

Number of Verses: 89

Key Verses:

I Thessalonians 1:5-7

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.

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

7 So **that ye were ensamples** to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

Paul's Purpose for Writing the Book:

1. To **confirm** young converts
2. To **condition** them to go on to **holy** – separated living
3. To **comfort** them with the second coming of Christ (Rapture)

Outline:

I. The Christian's work for God (I Thessalonians 1)

1. The evidence of Christianity (I Thessalonians 1:1-4)
 - a. Work of **Faith** – work of conviction)
 - b. Labor of **Love** – intense work of Godly love
 - c. **Patience of Hope** – endurance because of the expectation of good from God
 - d. Your **election** = the act of picking out, choosing of God. (I Thessalonians 1:4)
2. What Christ wants from His followers (I Thessalonians 1:5)
 - a. Follow His **Word**
 - b. Utilize the Holy Spirit's **Power**
 - c. **Behave** Him confidently
3. Follow Me as I follow God (I Thessalonians 1:6)
 - a. Follow God's people as they follow **God**
 - b. Watching them as they **endure** the hardness of life
 - c. The Holy Spirit can produce **happiness** in affliction
4. WE ARE TO BE AN ENSAMPLE – **EXAMPLE** (I Thessalonians 1:7)
5. **Promise** from God as we follow Him (I Thessalonians 1:8-9)
6. He's coming Back – Just **work** till He gets here (I Thessalonians 1:10)

II. Paul's Approach to a People Ministry (I Thessalonians 2)

1. Introduction: What the Ministry's all about (I Thessalonians 2:1-6)
 - a. No **Shame** - Only the Truth (I Thessalonians 2:1-2)
 - b. No **tricks** (I Thessalonians 2:3-5)
 - c. No **Glory** for us (I Thessalonians 2:6)
2. What the Job of God's Minister entails (I Thessalonians 2:7-12)

- a. A **Heart** towards the people (I Thessalonians 2:7-11)
- b. A Desire for the **people** to Walk Worthy of God (I Thessalonians 2:12)
- 3. The only reward a Minister of God should **seek** (I Thessalonians 2:13-16)
 - You have proven to walk worthy of God because...
 - a. You **Received** it (I Thessalonians 2:13)
 - b. You **Followed** it (I Thessalonians 2:14a)
 - c. You **Suffered** for it (I Thessalonians 2:14b-16)

THE ONLY REWARD A MINISTER OF GOD SHOULD SEEK IS EVIDENCE THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE GOTTEN IT – We need to quit worrying about **numerical** growth and focus on **Spiritual** growth!

- 4. We long to see you because you GOT IT! (I Thessalonians 2:17-20)

III. **OTHERS** - The Heart of the Matter (I Thessalonians 3)

- 1. Others need someone to care - **Companionship** (I Thessalonians 3:1-2)
- 2. Others need someone they can **Count on** (I Thessalonians 3:3-5)
- 3. Others need someone to pray for them – **Compassion** (I Thessalonians 3:6-13)

IV. A **Sanctified** Vessel (Thessalonians 4)

- 1. Refrain from **wrong** (I Thessalonians 4:1-5)
- 2. Rip off - **Don't** take advantage of others (I Thessalonians 4:6-8)
- 3. Respect - Love each **other** (I Thessalonians 4:9-10)
- 4. Reality - **Honesty** pays off (I Thessalonians 4:11-12)

If we are honest God will take care of meeting our **needs!**

- 5. Rapture - God's definition of **caring** for our needs (I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
 - a. Don't be without **Hope** (I Thessalonians 4:13-14a)
 - b. Jesus will take care of the **dead** Christian (I Thessalonians 4:14b-15)
 - c. Jesus will take care of the **living** Christian (I Thessalonians 4:16-18)

V. The Do's and Don'ts For the **Mature** Christian (I Thessalonians 5)

- 1. What **not** to do! (Don't focus on the End Times) (I Thessalonians 5:1-2)
- 2. The world believes **peace** is here (I Thessalonians 5:3-4)
- 3. Focus on the **Light** (I Thessalonians 5:5-6)
- 4. The world and **uncaring** Christians do not care (I Thessalonians 5:7-8)
- 5. We're not going to be in the **Tribulation** or going to hell (I Thessalonians 5:9-11)
- 6. The job description of the **caring** Christian – (I Thessalonians 5:12-22)
- 7. **God** does the sanctifying (I Thessalonians 5:23-24)
- 8. Paul's **Salutation** (I Thessalonians 5:25-28)