**An Outline of 1 Thessalonians**

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*\*Introduction – 1:1–4*

1. The Thessalonian story part 1: The beginnings of the gospel in Thessalonica (1:5–3:13)
2. The conversion of the Thessalonians (1:5–10)
3. First, the gospel came powerfully in Thessalonica (1:5–7).
   1. The nature of Paul’s preaching in Thessalonica (1:5)
      1. The gospel came with words.
      2. The gospel came with power.
      3. The gospel was empowered by the Holy Spirit.
      4. The gospel was preached with much assurance.
   2. The fruit of Paul’s preaching in Thessalonica (1:6–7)
      1. The Thessalonian believers became followers of Christ (6a).
      2. They followed in spite of suffering (6b).
      3. They were given joy by the Holy Spirit (6c).
      4. They became models for other believers (7).
4. Second, the testimony of the new Thessalonian believers was powerful as well (1:8–10)

a. With a powerful testimony they shared the gospel (8).

b. With a powerful testimony they embodied the gospel (9).

c. With a powerful testimony they expected the sudden appearance of the Son (10).

1. The early discipleship of the Thessalonians (2:1–12)
2. Essential characteristics of discipling others (2:1–7a)
   1. First, we learn from Paul that we must do good things to disciple others (1–5a).
      1. Doing good involves boldness with the gospel (1–2).
      2. Doing good involves divinely-approved speech (3–5a).
   2. Second, we must be authentic (5b).
   3. Third, we must demonstrate no selfish ambition (6–7a).
3. Final components of developing others spiritually (2:7b–12)

a. Mother-like care (7b–8)

b. Workman-like labor (9)

c. Christ-like conduct (10)

d. Father-like instruction (11–12)

1. The faithfulness of the Thessalonians (2:13–3:13)
2. The marks of faithfulness (2:13–16)
   1. Mark 1: They gladly received the Word (13a).
   2. Mark 2: They gladly faced affliction for Christ (13b–16).
3. The adversary of faithfulness (2:17–3:5)
4. Satan opposes ministers of the gospel (2:17–20).
   * 1. A good desire (17–18a)
     2. An eternal expectation (19–20)
     3. A powerful adversary (18b)
5. Satan tempts professing believers to abandon their faith (3:1–5).
6. Paul’s choice to be left alone so others might profit (1–3a).
7. The believer’s destiny to endure affliction for God (3b–4).
8. Paul’s determination to discover their condition in case Satan was tempting them (5).
9. The results of faithfulness (3:6–13)
10. It brings encouragement (6–8).
11. It brings joy (9–10).
12. It brings prayer (11–13).
13. The Thessalonian story part 2: the future of the gospel in Thessalonica (4:1–5:28)
14. Behavior worthy of God requires personal holiness (4:1–8).
    * + 1. A general exhortation: you must obey my previous instructions (4:1–2).
        2. A specific expression: you must please God (4:3–8).
15. What pleasing God involves (3–6a)
16. Why pleasing God is important (6b–8)
17. Behavior worthy of God includes love (4:9–12).
18. The need for mutual love: when it’s enough (4:9–10).
19. The demonstration of mutual love: what it’s like (4:11).
20. The value of mutual love: why it’s important (4:12).
21. Behavior worthy of God requires hope (4:13–18).
22. Opening declaration: “Don’t grieve like the hopeless” (4:13).
23. Settling affirmation: “There are good reasons for hope” (4:14–17).
24. We should have hope because of Christ’s resurrection (14).
25. We should have hope because of Christ’s teaching about his return (15–17).
26. Final instruction: “Encourage each other” (4:18).
27. Behavior worthy of God requires diligence (5:1–11).
28. Unbelievers and the day of the Lord (5:1–3)
29. It is unexpected (2–3a).
30. It is inescapable (3b).
31. Believers and the day of the Lord (5:4–11).
32. It will not seize believers (4–10).
33. This teaching should provide encouragement and edification for believers (11).
34. Behavior worthy of God includes right relationships (5:12–18).
35. Right relationships with our leaders (12–13a)
36. Right relationships with other believers (13b–15)
37. Strive for peace with believers.
38. Admonish the idle.
39. Encourage the fainthearted.
40. Support the weak.
41. Be patient with all.
42. Do not retaliate.
43. Right relationship with God (16–18)
44. Behavior worthy of God requires divine enablement (5:19–24).
45. We must not quench the Holy Spirit (19–22).
46. We must recognize that our spiritual development rests on God’s empowerment (23–24).

*\*Conclusion – 5:25–28*