

# An Outline of 1 Thessalonians

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## *\*Introduction – 1:1–4*

- I. The Thessalonian story part 1: The beginnings of the gospel in Thessalonica (1:5–3:13)
  - A. The conversion of the Thessalonians (1:5–10)
    1. First, the gospel came powerfully in Thessalonica (1:5–7).
      - a. 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.
      - b. 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).
    2. 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).
  - B. The early discipleship of the Thessalonians (2:1–12)
    1. Essential characteristics of discipling others (2:1–7a)
      - a. 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).
      - b. Second, we must be authentic (5b).
      - c. Third, we must demonstrate no selfish ambition (6–7a).
    2. 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)
  - C. The faithfulness of the Thessalonians (2:13–3:13)
    1. The marks of faithfulness (2:13–16)
      - a. Mark 1: They gladly received the Word (13a).
      - b. Mark 2: They gladly faced affliction for Christ (13b–16).
    2. The adversary of faithfulness (2:17–3:5)
      - a. 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)
      - b. Satan tempts professing believers to abandon their faith (3:1–5).
        - 1) Paul’s choice to be left alone so others might profit (1–3a).



- 2) The believer's destiny to endure affliction for God (3b-4).
  - 3) Paul's determination to discover their condition in case Satan was tempting them (5).
3. The results of faithfulness (3:6-13)
    - a. It brings encouragement (6-8).
    - b. It brings joy (9-10).
    - c. It brings prayer (11-13).
- II. The Thessalonian story part 2: the future of the gospel in Thessalonica (4:1-5:28)
- A. 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).
      - a. What pleasing God involves (3-6a)
      - b. Why pleasing God is important (6b-8)
  - B. Behavior worthy of God includes love (4:9-12).
    1. The need for mutual love: when it's enough (4:9-10).
    2. The demonstration of mutual love: what it's like (4:11).
    3. The value of mutual love: why it's important (4:12).
  - C. Behavior worthy of God requires hope (4:13-18).
    1. Opening declaration: "Don't grieve like the hopeless" (4:13).
    2. Settling affirmation: "There are good reasons for hope" (4:14-17).
      - a. We should have hope because of Christ's resurrection (14).
      - b. We should have hope because of Christ's teaching about his return (15-17).
    3. Final instruction: "Encourage each other" (4:18).
  - D. Behavior worthy of God requires diligence (5:1-11).
    1. Unbelievers and the day of the Lord (5:1-3)
      - a. It is unexpected (2-3a).
      - b. It is inescapable (3b).
    2. Believers and the day of the Lord (5:4-11)
      - a. It will not seize believers (4-10).
      - b. This teaching should provide encouragement and edification for believers (11).
  - E. Behavior worthy of God includes right relationships (5:12-18).
    1. Right relationships with our leaders (12-13a)
    2. Right relationships with other believers (13b-15)
      - a. Strive for peace with believers.
      - b. Admonish the idle.
      - c. Encourage the fainthearted.
      - d. Support the weak.
      - e. Be patient with all.
      - f. Do not retaliate.
    3. Right relationship with God (16-18)
  - F. Behavior worthy of God requires divine enablement (5:19-24).
    1. We must not quench the Holy Spirit (19-22).
    2. We must rest on God's empowerment for spiritual development (23-24).

*\*Conclusion – 5:25-28*

