

**1 THESSALONIANS  
INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW  
1 THESSALONIANS 1:1**

**Topics:**

Author, Audience, Date Written, Setting, Occasion/Purpose for Writing, Message and Themes, Persecution, Paul’s Ministry, Hope, Second Coming Preparation

**Open It Questions**

A. When you are being taught and something is said that you do not understand, or that seems questionable based on your prior learning; do you speak up or do you remain silent? Explain.

---

---

---

B. As a teacher, parent, counselor, or friend do you encourage your listeners to ask questions about things that you say or teach, or advice that you give? Briefly explain your response.

---

---

---

## **INTRODUCTION**

“You will not learn unless you ask questions!” Countless teachers and parents have explained that truth to children as they begin their educational experience. Those who desire to train others and impart knowledge do not mind responding to queries. Questions help them know what students are thinking and learning. Those who do not verbalize their doubts, voice their concerns, or seek to clarify what they have heard often harbor misunderstanding, go the wrong way, or live in ignorance.

Paul, master teacher, also felt like a father to believers in the churches he had planted on his missionary journeys. In both roles, he eagerly welcomed students’ questions and patiently responded. With limited time in each location, however, Paul could not cover every topic, resolve every conflict, or answer every question, so he wrote letters to his beloved churches. Each letter had a purpose and spoke to specific needs.

Paul wrote this epistle, his first to the church at Thessalonica, to answer believers’ questions and to commend them on their faith and commitment to Christ. The Thessalonians had questions ... and they asked them. As you read this short, personal letter, look for answers for yourself. Also, think of questions that *you* will ask your spiritual mentor ... and then learn.

## **BACKGROUND AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

### ***AUTHOR***

1. Who is the author of 1 Thessalonians (1:1; 5:27)?

---

---

---

***AUDIENCE***

2. To whom was this letter addressed? (1 Thessalonians 1:1)

---



---



---

3. How did Paul address the believers in this city? (1:1)

---



---



---

***DATE WRITTEN***

4. **Approximately when and where was 1 Thessalonians written?**  
(See handout entitled “Paul’s Missionary Journeys and Letters”)

**SETTING**

5. Where was the City of Thessalonica located in relation to the City of Corinth? (See Map Showing Thessalonica)

---



---



---



## The City of Thessalonica

6. What were some of the features of the City of Thessalonica?

---

---

---

Thessalonica was the capital and largest city (about 200,000 population) of the Roman province of Macedonia. The most important Roman highway (the Egnatian Way)—extending from Rome all the way to the Orient—went through Thessalonica. This highway, along with the city's thriving seaport, made Thessalonica one of the wealthiest and most flourishing trade centers in the Roman Empire. Recognized as a free city, Thessalonica was allowed self-rule and was exempt from most of the restrictions placed by Rome on other cities in the empire. With its international flavor, however, came many pagan religions and cultural influences that challenged the faith of the young Christians there.

## The Church

7. Who founded the church in Thessalonica?

---

---

---

Paul and his companions probably arrived in Thessalonica in the early summer of A.D. 50. They planted the first Christian church in that city but had to leave in a hurry because their lives were threatened ([Acts 17:1-10](#)). At the first opportunity, probably when he stopped at Corinth, Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to see how the new believers were doing.

## The People

8. What was the character of the people in the church in Thessalonica? (1:3)

---

---

---

9. How had the Thessalonians responded to the gospel message? (1:6)

---

---

---

10. For what kind of faith were the Thessalonians known? (1:8)

---

---

---

11. How had the Thessalonians' lives been a model for others? (1:8-9)

---

---

---

12. What were the Thessalonians anticipating? (1:10)

---

---

---

***OCCASION/PURPOSE FOR WRITING***

13. Why was the Letter to the Thessalonians written? (1:2-10)

---



---



---

***THE MESSAGE AND THEMES***

14. What were the four (4) main messages and themes that Paul conveyed in the Letter to the Thessalonians? (1:2-10)

**Persecution (1:6; 2:1–2, 14–16; 3:3–8).**

---



---



---

***Importance for Today.*** Believers in any age can expect to be persecuted. They need to stand firm in their faith in the midst of trials, being strengthened by the Holy Spirit, who helps them remain strong. We may experience threats or overt slander and physical opposition, or the persecution and oppression may be more subtle. Whatever the case, we must remain strong in faith through the power of the Spirit, showing genuine love to others and maintaining our moral character.

**Paul's ministry (1:5-6; 2:1–20; 3:1–8).**

---



---



---

***Importance for Today.*** Paul not only delivered his message, but he also gave of himself. In addition, Paul did not allow persecution or slander to deter him from obeying the Lord and fulfilling his calling. In our

ministries, we must become like Paul—faithful and bold, yet sensitive and self-sacrificing.

**Hope (1:3, 10; 2:19; 4:13–18).**

---

---

---

*Importance for Today.* All who believe in Christ will live with him forever. All those who belong to Jesus Christ—throughout history—will be present with him at his second coming. No matter how bad the situation or bleak the outlook, we can take heart, knowing that our future is secure in Christ. We can be confident that at death or at the Second Coming, we will be with loved ones who also have trusted in Christ.

**Preparation for the Second Coming (1:3, 9; 2:19–20; 3:13; 4:1–12; 5:1–28).**

---

---

---

*Importance for Today.* The gospel is not only what we believe but also what we must live. The Holy Spirit helps us to be faithful to Christ, giving us strength to resist lust and fraud. Live as though you expect Christ's return at any time. Do not be caught unprepared.

[Reference Source: Life Application New Testament Commentary and Adult LessonMaker]

## PAUL'S LETTERS AND MISSIONARY JOURNEYS

YEAR A.D.	MAJOR EVENTS	ACTS	PERIOD	LETTERS
34	Conversion, Damascus, Arabia	9	3 years - Arabia	
37	Jerusalem, Tarsus, Syria, Cilicia			
46-47	Antioch, Jerusalem	11	1 year - Antioch	
48-49	First Missionary Journey and Antioch	13-14		Galatians
50	Jerusalem Council and Antioch	15		
51-53	Second Missionary Journey	16-18	18 months - Corinth	1 Thessalonians 2 Thessalonians
53-54	Antioch			
54-57	Third Missionary Journey	19-21	3 years - Ephesus	1 Corinthians 2 Corinthians Romans
57	Jerusalem Arrest	22-23		
57-59	Caesarea Prisoner	24-26	2 years	
59-60	Journey to Rome	27-28		
60-67 circa	Rome House Arrest	28	5-7 years circa	Ephesians Colossians Philemon Philippians 1 Timothy Titus 2 Timothy

[ConformingToJesus.com](http://ConformingToJesus.com)

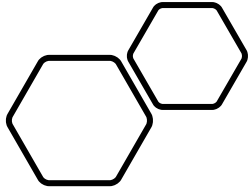


# 1 Thessalonians

## Outline

- I. Paul praises the Thessalonians for the quality of their faith (1:1-10)
- II. Paul reminds the Thessalonians of the model he and his team set (2:1-16)
- III. Paul outlines the background of Timothy's trip and applauds Timothy's positive report (2:17-3:13)
- IV. Paul addresses some lifestyle issues (4:1-5:22)
  - A. Personal life (4:1-12)
  - B. Implications of Christ's future return (4:13-5:11)
  - C. Community life (5:12-22)
- V. Closing prayer (5:23-28)

**LESSONmaker Outlines.**



*1 Thessalonians*  
“Introduction and  
Overview” (1:1-10)

**Facilitators:**

Rev. Rodney Kemp

Rev. Valerie Crump

Rev. Jacqueline Albert

Alicia Martin, Minister-in-Training

Dean Donna Wilson

# NEW HOPE

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTHFIELD  
23455 WEST NINE MILE ROAD, SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033  
TELEPHONE: 248.353.0675

*Welcome*



BIBLE STUDY



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*



**PRAYER**

**Sick  
Bereaved  
Our Nation  
The World**



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

- Holy Bible
- 1 Thessalonians Teaching Schedule
- Participant Questionnaire/Worksheet
- A Chronology of Paul’s Writings
- Thessalonians Location Map
- Outline of the First Letter to the Thessalonians



# **First Letter to the Thessalonians**

## ***“Introduction and Overview”***

**TOPICS**



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### TOPICS

- Author
- Audience
- Date Written
- Setting
- Occasion/Purpose  
for Writing
- Message and  
Themes
- Persecution
- Paul’s Ministry
- Hope
- Second Coming  
Preparation
- 1 Thessalonians  
Outline**



# **First Letter to the Thessalonians**

## ***“Introduction and Overview”***

**OPEN IT QUESTIONS**



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### OPEN IT QUESTIONS

- A. When you are being taught and something is said that you do not understand, or that seems questionable based on your prior learning; do you speak up or do you remain silent?





# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### OPEN IT QUESTIONS

- B. As a teacher, parent, counselor, or friend do you encourage your listeners to ask questions about things that you say or teach, or advice that you give? Briefly explain your response.



# **First Letter to the Thessalonians**

## ***“Introduction and Overview”***

### **INTRODUCTION**



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### **INTRODUCTION**

“You will not learn unless you ask questions!” Countless teachers and parents have explained that truth to children as they begin their educational experience.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Those who desire to train others and impart knowledge do not mind responding to queries. Questions help them know what students are thinking and learning. Those who do not verbalize their doubts, voice their concerns, or seek to clarify what they have heard often harbor misunderstanding, go the wrong way, or live in ignorance.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Paul, master teacher, also felt like a father to believers in the churches he had planted on his missionary journeys. In both roles, he eagerly welcomed students’ questions and patiently responded. With limited time in each location, however, Paul could not cover every topic, resolve every conflict, or answer every question, so he wrote letters to his beloved churches. Each letter had a purpose and spoke to specific needs.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Paul wrote this epistle, his first to the church at Thessalonica, to answer believers’ questions and to commend them on their faith and commitment to Christ. The Thessalonians had questions ... and they asked them. As you read this short, personal letter, look for answers for yourself. Also, think of questions that *you* will ask your spiritual mentor ... and then learn.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

**SCRIPTURE**



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### SCRIPTURE (KJV)

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

<sup>3</sup>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;...





# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview*

### SCRIPTURE (KJV)

<sup>4</sup> Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### SCRIPTURE (KJV)

<sup>7</sup>So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>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;

<sup>10</sup>And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**

*Author*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

1. Who is the author of 1 Thessalonians?  
(1:1; 5:27)

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### *Author*

*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 (1:1 KJV).*

*[I] charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren (5:27 KJV).*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

#### *Author*

The first verse of this letter identifies Paul as the author. Paul’s traveling companions—Silas and Timothy—are mentioned as well, but Paul is clearly the primary author because the pronoun “I” is used so often: “When I could bear it no longer, I sent Timothy” (3:5 NLT).



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

*Author*

At the end of this letter, however, Paul took ultimate responsibility for the contents when he again used the pronoun “I” in his final statement:

*[I] charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren (5:27 KJV).*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**

*Audience*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### 2. To whom was this letter addressed? (1:1)

#### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

##### *Audience*

*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 (1:1 KJV).*





# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT

*Audience*

**“...unto the church of  
the Thessalonians...”**

This letter was written  
to the believers in  
Thessalonica.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview*

### 3. How did Paul address the believers in this city? (1:1)

#### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

##### *Audience*

*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 (1:1 KJV).*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

“...Grace be unto you and peace...”

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### *Audience*

Paul often began his letters with greetings of *grace and peace*. **Grace** means God’s unmerited favor; **peace** refers to the peace that Christ made between us and God through his death on the cross. Only **God our Father** and the **Lord Jesus Christ** can grant such wonderful gifts. Paul wanted his readers to experience God’s grace and peace in their daily living.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**

*Date Written*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

4. Approximately when and where was 1 Thessalonians written?

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### *Date Written*

Paul probably wrote 1 Thessalonians at the beginning of his stay in Corinth—in A.D. 50-51.

(See handout entitled “Paul’s Letters and Missionary Journeys”)



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

*Date Written*

Paul spent a full year and a half in Corinth, establishing a church in that city. During that time, Timothy returned from Thessalonica (Acts 18:5) with a favorable report on the Thessalonian believers and with their questions. In response to Timothy’s report, Paul dictated 1 Thessalonians.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**

*Setting – The City*



# **First Letter to the Thessalonians**

## ***“Introduction and Overview”***

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**  
*Setting – The City*

**5. Where was the City of  
Thessalonica located in  
relation to the City of Corinth?**

(See Map Showing Thessalonica)





# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

*Setting – The City*





# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### 6. What were some of the features of the City of Thessalonica?

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**  
*Setting – The City*

Thessalonica was the capital and largest city (about 200,000 population) of the Roman province of Macedonia. The most important Roman highway (the Egnatian Way)—extending from Rome all the way to the Orient—went through Thessalonica. This highway, along with the city's thriving seaport, made Thessalonica one of the wealthiest and most flourishing trade centers in the Roman Empire.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

*Setting – The City*

Recognized as a free city, Thessalonica was allowed self-rule and was exempt from most of the restrictions placed by Rome on other cities in the empire. With its international flavor, however, came many pagan religions and cultural influences that challenged the faith of the young Christians there.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**

*Setting – The Church*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### 7. Who founded the church in Thessalonica?

Paul and his companions probably arrived in Thessalonica in the early summer of A.D. 50. They planted the first Christian church in that city but had to leave in a hurry because their lives were threatened ([Acts 17:1-10](#)). At the first opportunity, probably when he stopped at Corinth, Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to see how the new believers were doing.

#### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

##### *Setting – The Church*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**

*Setting – The People*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

8. What was the character of the people in the church at Thessalonica? (1:3)

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### *Setting – The People*

*<sup>3</sup> 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; ... (KJV).*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

#### *Setting – The People*

Paul commended these young Christians for their faithful work, loving deeds, and anticipation of the Lord's return. These characteristics are the marks of effective Christians in any age.





# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

9. How had the Thessalonians responded to the gospel message? (1:6)

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

*Setting –  
The People*

*<sup>6</sup> You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit (AMP).*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

10. For what kind of faith were the Thessalonians known? (1:8)

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### *Setting – The People*

*<sup>8</sup> For the word of the Lord has resounded from you and has echoed [like thunder], not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place [the news of] your [great] faith in God has spread, so that we never need to say anything about it (AMP).*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### 11. How had the Thessalonians’ lives been a model for others? (1:8-9)

#### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

##### *Setting – The People*

*<sup>8</sup> For the word of the Lord has resounded from you and has echoed [like thunder], not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place [the news of] your [great] faith in God has spread, so that we never need to say anything about it.*

*<sup>9</sup> For they themselves report about us, telling what kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ... (AMP)*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview*

### 12. What were the Thessalonians anticipating? (1:10)

#### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

##### *Setting – The People*

*<sup>10</sup> ...and to [look forward and confidently] wait for [the coming of] His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead— Jesus, who [personally] rescues us from the coming wrath [and draws us to Himself, granting us all the privileges and rewards of a new life with Him] (AMP).*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**

*Occasion for Writing/Purpose*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### 13. Why was the Letter to the Thessalonians written? (1:1-10)

#### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### *Occasion for Writing/Purpose*

- To praise and offer thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' progress (1:2-4).
- To remind the Thessalonians of how they received the gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit (1:5-6).



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

#### *Occasion for Writing/Purpose*

### **13. Why was the Letter to the Thessalonians written? (1:1-10)**

- To commend the Thessalonians for their example of great faith which had been felt far abroad (1:8).
- To commend the Thessalonians on their turning away from their old pagan religions and worship to the one true God and were now waiting for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus (1:9-10).



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**

*Message and Themes*





# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

14. What were the four (4) main messages and themes that Paul conveyed in the Letter to the Thessalonians?

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**  
*Message and  
Themes*

- Persecution (**1:6**; 2:1–2, 14–16; 3:3–8)
- Paul’s ministry (**1:5–6**; 2:1–20; 3:1–8)
- Hope (**1:3, 10**; 2:19; 4:13–18)
- Preparation for the Second Coming (**1:3, 9**; 2:19–20; 3:13; 4:1–12; 5:1–28)



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

□ Persecution (**1:6**; 2:1–2, 14–16; 3:3–8)

Paul and his associates had been hounded and finally driven out of Thessalonica during their short visit to that city. The new Christians Paul left behind were being persecuted because of their faith in Christ.

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**

*Message and  
Themes*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

□ Persecution (**1:6**; 2:1–2, 14–16; 3:3–8)

*Importance for Today.* Believers in any age can expect to be persecuted. They need to stand firm in their faith in the midst of trials, being strengthened by the Holy Spirit, who helps them remain strong.

**BACKGROUND  
AND CONTEXT**

*Message and  
Themes*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### *Message and Themes*

□ Paul’s ministry (**1:5–6**; 2:1–20; 3:1–8)

Some in Thessalonica were suggesting that Paul and his associates were preaching with selfish motives. Paul denied these charges by reminding the believers of his ministry among them and throughout the area. Paul was determined to share the gospel despite being slandered and facing other difficult circumstances.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

□ Paul’s ministry (**1:5–6**; 2:1–20; 3:1–8)

*Importance for Today.* Paul not only delivered his message, but he also gave of himself. In addition, Paul did not allow persecution or slander to deter him from obeying the Lord and fulfilling his calling. In our ministries, we must become like Paul—faithful and bold, yet sensitive and self-sacrificing.

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### *Message and Themes*



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

□ Hope (**1:3**, 10; 2:19; 4:13–18)

### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

#### *Message and Themes*

Paul encouraged the Thessalonian Christians by reminding them that one day all believers, both those who are alive and those who have died, will be united with Christ. Christians who die before Christ’s return have hope—the hope of the resurrection of the body and life everlasting with the Lord.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

□ Hope (**1:3**, 10; 2:19; 4:13–18)

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### *Message and Themes*

*Importance for Today.* All who believe in Christ will live with him forever. All those who belong to Jesus Christ—throughout history—will be present with him at his second coming. No matter how bad the situation or bleak the outlook, we can take heart, knowing that our future is secure in Christ. We can be confident that at death or at the Second Coming, we will be with loved ones who also have trusted in Christ.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

- ❑ Preparation for the Second Coming (**1:3**, 9; 2:19–20; 3:13; 4:1–12; 5:1–28)

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### *Message and Themes*

No one knows the time of Christ’s return—it will come suddenly when people least expect it. Thus, believers should live moral and holy lives, ever watchful for his coming, not neglecting daily responsibilities, but always working and living to please the Lord.





# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

- ❑ Preparation for the Second Coming (**1:3**, 9; 2:19–20; 3:13; 4:1–12; 5:1–28)

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

#### *Message and Themes*

*Importance for Today.* The gospel is not only what we believe but also what we must live. The Holy Spirit helps us to be faithful to Christ, giving us strength to resist lust and fraud. Live as though you expect Christ’s return at any time. Do not be caught unprepared.



# First Letter to the Thessalonians

## *“Introduction and Overview”*

### 1 Thessalonians

- I. Paul praises the Thessalonians for the quality of their faith (1:1-10)
- II. Paul reminds the Thessalonians of the model he and his team set (2:1-16)
- III. Paul outlines the background of Timothy's trip and applauds Timothy's positive report (2:17-3:13)
- IV. Paul addresses some lifestyle issues (4:1-5:22)
  - A. Personal life (4:1-12)
  - B. Implications of Christ's future return (4:13-5:11)
  - C. Community life (5:12-22)
- V. Closing prayer (5:23-28)

### OUTLINE



New Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
Southfield, Michigan

[www.newhope-mbc.org](http://www.newhope-mbc.org)

**Next Week's Lesson:**

**1 Thessalonians 2:1-16**

*“Paul’s Ministry in Thessalonica”*