

1 Thessalonians Ch 1:1-10

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1. How is Paul's salutation in 1 Thessalonians different than his other letters?

1 Thessalonians 1:1

1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. Paul does not reference his apostolic authority or his status as a bond-servant of the Lord.

B. Paul includes Silas and Timothy as co-authors³.

1. How is Paul's salutation in 1 Thessalonians different than his other letters?

1. **Paul and Silvanus and Timothy**

2. To the Thessalonians

3. **Grace** to you and **peace** from **God the Father** and the **Lord Jesus Christ**.

1. How is Paul's salutation in 1 Thessalonians different than his other letters?

The Thessalonica church was strong because its ministers had remained faithful to the church. They had continued to stay in touch with the church and to exhort the believers through visits and letters as long as they were living and able to minister.

a. Paul visited the church when he returned to the area on his third missionary journey (Acts 20:1–2).

b. Timothy made a special visit to the church for the very purpose of helping the church through a difficult time and to establish and comfort the believers in their faith (1 Thess. 3:1–6).

c. All three ministers wrote the church at least two times: this letter of 1 Thessalonians and the second letter to the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1).

2. Why does Paul give thanks to God for the Thessalonians?

1 Thessalonians 1:2-4

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

3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith
and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in
our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our
God and Father,

4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice
of you;

2. Why does Paul give thanks to God for the Thessalonians?

Prayer

- 1. A strong church prays.**
- 2. Prayer requires our presence, sharing and talking to God along with our brothers and sisters in Christ.**

2. Why does Paul give thanks to God for the Thessalonians?

Matt. 21:22

22 “And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

James 5:16

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

2. Why does Paul give thanks to God for the Thessalonians?

Work of Faith

- 1. Faith drives Christians to work.**
- 2. Faith causes Christians to serve God.**
- 3. Faith allows Christians to reach God's standards.**

2. Why does Paul give thanks to God for the Thessalonians?

Labor of Love

1. Love acts even when one is weary.

2. True love puts others first.

3. Love is displayed through labor and sacrifice.

4. Love is the giving of oneself to another.

2. Why does Paul give thanks to God for the Thessalonians?

Steadfastness of Hope

1. Hope gives confidence to Christians.

2. Hope makes Christians unshakeable.

3. Hope produces endurance.

4. The faithful will experience the fullness of God's goodness both in the present and in the future.

2. Why does Paul give thanks to God for the Thessalonians?

His choice of you

A. Believers are elected and chosen by God to be His beloved people.

1 John 3:1

1 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2. Why does Paul give thanks to God for the Thessalonians?

His choice of you

B. Believers are elected and chosen to be beloved brothers. They are called to hold one another ever so closely to their hearts and to count one another as precious and deeply loved.

Phil. 2:1-2

1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,

2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

The Church at Thessalonica

The church at Thessalonica is capable of succeeding in the Lord's work because:

1. It has faithful ministers (v. 1).
2. It is a church of the people (v. 1).
3. It is founded in God and Christ (v. 1).
4. It needs God's gifts: grace and peace (v. 1).
5. It stirs prayer (v. 2).
6. It is arousing people to work (v. 3).
7. It is chosen by God (v. 4).

3. What lesson can we learn from verse 5?

1 Thessalonians 1:5

5 for our gospel did not come to you in
word only, but also in power and in the
Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just
as you know what kind of men we proved
to be among you for your sake.

3. What lesson can we learn from verse 5?

Paul, Silas and Timothy:

1. Did not preach the gospel in just words.
2. They preached in power, in the Holy Spirit and in deep conviction.
3. They lived what they preached.

3. What lesson can we learn from verse 5?

A. We need to be humble servants of God. Never get puffed up about your gospel presentations or answers to challenging questions. Working for credit or personal glory will hinder the Spirit's work. All the glory always goes to God because He changes hearts.

B. We must do everything in prayer. We cannot change people's hearts, no matter how good we are at sharing the gospel. It is the Holy Spirit's work.

4. How did the Thessalonians receive the Gospel?

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8

6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord,
having received the word in much tribulation with the
joy of the Holy Spirit,

7 so that you became an example to all the believers
in Macedonia and in Achaia.

8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from
you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in
every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so
that we have no need to say anything.

4. How did the Thessalonians receive the Gospel?

A. The Thessalonians imitated Paul, Silas, Timothy and the Lord.

B. They received the Gospel in much affliction.

C. The Thessalonians became examples to the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

D. Their faith in the Lord reached other areas.

5. How did the Thessalonians change their lives after their belief in Christ?

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to **serve a living and true God,**

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* **Jesus,** who rescues us from the wrath to come.

5. How did the Thessalonians change their lives after their belief in Christ?

A. The Thessalonians had **turned from idols.**

1. They turned to God first, then with God's help and strength, **they repented** and **turned away from idols**.

2. Such turning is far more than merely changing one's belief about who Christ is—it is a complete reversal of allegiance, **from idols** (sin).

5. How did the Thessalonians change their lives after their belief in Christ?

B. The Thessalonians were to **serve the living and true God.**

1. The Thessalonians embraced Jesus as a living reality, not merely a historical figure, and their faith led to active service characterized by love and dedication, reflecting their deep conviction in His Deity.

2. **The faith the Thessalonians displayed fosters love and motivates a commitment to a new way of life, mirroring Jesus' example.**

5. How did the Thessalonians change their lives after their belief in Christ?

C. The Thessalonians were waiting for the resurrected Jesus to return from heaven, who delivers from the wrath to come.

1. Those who love Christ long for and anticipate His return.

2. This waiting is not passive. It involves active faith, perseverance and trust in God's timing.

6. What can we learn from the Thessalonians?

1. **Turn** from your idols and vain things in this life (sin).
2. **Serve** the true and living God.
3. **Wait** for Jesus to come from heaven.