

1 THESSALONIANS

1. TITLES:

- A. The First Epistle to the Thessalonians
- B. The Book of The Second Coming of Christ in Comfort

2. AUTHOR:

Written by Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

3. DATE:

Probably written between 50 and 52 A.D. during Paul's stay at Corinth on his second missionary journey (Acts 18).

4. KEY WORDS:

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|------------------------|----------------|
| A. Faith, Believe - 12 | D. Comfort - 6 |
| B. Joy, Rejoice - 7 | E. Coming - 4 |
| C. Love - 6 | F. Hope - 4 |

5. KEY VERSES: 2:19; 4:15-18

6. PURPOSE:

- A. To correct mistaken views of and to establish the doctrine of the second coming of Christ.
- B. To exhort the believers to display the three chief Godly virtues: faith, hope, and love.
- C. To confirm the purity of Paul's ministry among the Thessalonians.

7. MESSAGE:

- A. The coming of Christ for his people is a comfort to those who look for and patiently wait for Him.

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- B. The doctrine of the second coming is a great incentive to holiness.
- C. The Lord's return will be as a thief in the night to those that are in darkness, but will not be so to those that are in the light.

8. OUTLINE:

- I. The Waiting Church Ch. 1-3
 - A. Elected - Ch. 1
 - B. Persecuted - Ch. 2
 - C. Afflicted - Ch. 3
- II. The Coming Christ Ch. 4-5
 - A. Revelation - Ch. 4
 - B. Sanctification - Ch. 5

9. SUMMARY:

Paul laid the foundation of the church in Thessalonica on his second missionary journey (Acts 17). He experienced considerable opposition from the Judaizers and did not stay there long, but soon after departing he wrote his epistle to them. The general spiritual state of the church was good but there were several things that needed correction. In chapter one, Paul commends them for being a pattern church. In chapters two and three he reminds them of the persecution and affliction which he and they endured at the hands of the Judaizers. Then in chapters four and five he exhorts them to the practical outworking of their sanctification in spirit, soul, and body. The main theme running through the epistle is the second coming of Christ, reference to which are made in each chapter (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-11, 23). Also seen throughout the epistle is the abiding trinity of faith, hope, and love.

10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as our Sanctification and our Coming Lord.