

## Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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## 1 & 2 Thessalonians

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### Introduction—1 & 2 Thessalonians

- Author - Paul
- Date - AD 51 for both
- Situation—
  - Paul, Silas and Timothy came from Philippi around 49-50AD.
  - Converted mostly Gentile idol worshipers
  - Had to leave after a few months
  - Wrote letters 1 (maybe 2 max) year later from Corinth

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### Historical/Theological Themes

- The Return of Christ
  - The Parousia (rapture and return of Christ events)
    - 1 Thess 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23; 2 Thess 2:1-2, 8
  - The Day of the Lord—1 Thess 5:2; 2 Thess 2:2
  - The Coming Wrath—1 Thess 1:10; 2:16; 5:9; 2 Thess 1:6-8
- Prayer—1 Thess 1:2; 3:11-13; 5:23-24; 2 Thess 1:11-12; 3:1-2, 5, 16.

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### Historical/Theological Themes

- Sanctified Blameless Life- 1 Thess 2:10-11; 3:13; 4:3; 5:23-24; 2 Thess 2:13-14; 3:13
- Paul's Model for New Believers -1 Thess 1:6; 2:5-12; 2 Thess 1:7; 3:7-9

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### Purposes

- 1 Thessalonians: Paul exhorted the Thessalonian believers to grow in holiness so that they might be blameless when Christ returns.
- 2 Thessalonians: Paul called the Thessalonian believers to steadfastness and Christian growth in light of the return of Christ.

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## Literary Structure

- 1 Thessalonians
  - Paul's Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians (1)
  - Paul's Ministry to the Thessalonians (2-3)
  - Paul's Exhortation to the Thessalonians (4-5)
- 2 Thessalonians
  - Encouragement in Persecution (1)
  - Explanation of the Day of the Lord (2)
  - Exhortation to Readiness (3)

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## Practicality for the Local Church

- 1 Thessalonians:
  - How to be a Faithful Church (1:1-10)
  - How to Appreciate the Ministry of Those Who Bring the Gospel (chpt 2)
  - The Christian's Response to the Gospel (chpt 4)
  - Eschatology and Ramifications (chpt 4-5:11)
  - How to Treat Your Leaders (5:12-13)
  - How to Treat Each Other (5:14-15)
  - Living a Mature Christian Life (5:16-23)

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## Practicality for the Local Church

- 2 Thessalonians:
  - Advanced Eschatology (1:5-2:12)
  - Theological Subjects (2:13-15)
    - Election
    - Sanctification
    - Calling and Regeneration
    - Authority of Scripture
  - Evangelism and Persecution (3:1-5)
  - Christian Work Ethic (3:6-12)
  - Faithfulness in Ministry (3:13)
  - Church Discipline (3:14-15)

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