

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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Paul's Epistles

Couplets

- ✓ 1 & 2 Thessalonians—The Steadfastness of the Church—Eschatology Taught
- ✓ 1 & 2 Corinthians—The Function of the Church—Ecclesiology Taught
- ✓ Romans & Galatians—The Doctrine of the Church—Soteriology Taught
- ✓ Ephesians & Colossians—The Foundation of the Church—Christology Taught & Applied
- ✓ Philippians & Philemon—The Heart of the Church—Soteriology Applied
- ✓ 1 Timothy & Titus—The Structure of the Church—Ecclesiology Applied
- ✓ (Hebrews &) 2 Timothy—The Endurance of the Church—Eschatology Applied

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Introduction to 1 Thessalonians

Title

- ✓ Greek = *Pros Thessalonikeis Alpha* (ΤΙΡΟΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΕΙΣ Α'; "To Thessalonians A")

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Introduction to 1 Thessalonians

WHO—Authorship

- ✓ The Apostle Paul, as well as Silvanus and Timothy (1:1)
- ✓ Primarily Paul (e.g., 3:1)

WHO—Audience

- ✓ Believers dwelling in Thessalonica converted mostly from Gentile idol worship (1:9)

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Introduction to 1 Thessalonians

WHEN

- ✓ AD 51
- ✓ During Paul's Second Missionary Journey
- ✓ The Establishing of the Thessalonian Church (Acts 17:1–9)

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Introduction to 1 Thessalonians

WHERE

- ✓ Paul, Silas and Timothy came from Philippi around 49–50 AD (Acts 17:1–9; Paul's Second Missionary Journey)
- ✓ Had to leave after a few months (Paul and Silas in prison)
- ✓ Wrote Thessalonian letters 1 (or 2) years later from Corinth (Acts 18:1ff)



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Introduction to 1 Thessalonians

WHY

To encourage a young and vibrant Thessalonian church of the example of faithfulness of faith, love, and hope that they embody, even amid persecution, and to exhort them to excel still more in faithful living, love for the saints, and hope in the Day of the Lord, which is the return of Jesus Christ.

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Introduction to 1 Thessalonians

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ Brother(s) (1:4; 2:1, 9, 14, 17; 3:2, 7; 4:1, 6, 10 (2x), 13; 5:1, 4, 12, 14, 25, 26, 27)
- ✓ Gospel (or Preach the Gospel; 1:5; 2:2, 4, 8, 9; 3:2, 6)
- ✓ Love (1:3, 4; 2:8; 3:6, 12; 4:9; 5:8, 13)
- ✓ Faith (or Believe; 1:3, 7, 8; 2:4, 10, 13; 3:2, 5, 6, 7, 10; 4:14; 5:8, 24)
- ✓ Hope (1:3; 2:19; 4:13; 5:8)
- ✓ Word (1:5, 6, 8; 2:5, 13 (3x); 4:15, 18)
- ✓ Spirit (1:5, 6; 4:8; 5:19, 23)

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Introduction to 1 Thessalonians

HOW—Themes

- ✓ Sanctified blameless life (2:10–11; 3:13; 4:3; 5:23–24)
- ✓ Paul’s model for new believers (1:6; 2:5–12)
- ✓ The Return of Christ
 - ❖ The Parousia (rapture and return of Christ events; 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23)
 - ❖ The Day of the Lord (1 Thess 5:2)
 - ❖ The Coming Wrath (1:10; 2:16; 5:9)
- ✓ Prayer (1:2; 3:11–13; 5:23–24)

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Introduction to 1 Thessalonians

HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ Gracious Greeting (1:1)
- ✓ The Faithful Example of the Thessalonians (1:1–10)
- ✓ The Faithful Example of the Gospel Ministers (2:1–13)
 - ❖ The Sincere Motives of the Gospel Ministers (2:1–8)
 - ❖ The Sincere Behavior of the Gospel Ministers (2:9–13)
- ✓ **Opposition to the Example of Faithfulness (2:14–16)**
- ✓ Comfort from the Apostles (2:17 – 3:5)
- ✓ Comfort from the Thessalonians (3:6–13)
- ✓ Excelling in Honorable Relationships (4:1–8)
- ✓ Excelling in Loving Relationships (4:9–12)
- ✓ Comfort in the Resurrection of the Rapture (4:13–18)
- ✓ Comfort in the Recompense of the Day of the Lord (5:1–11)
- ✓ A Call to Honor Leaders (5:12–13)
- ✓ A Call to an Honorable Life (5:14–24)
- ✓ Gracious Benediction (5:25–27)

The structure is framed around the use of the word “brothers”, which acts as a term of transition for each section. Furthermore, Paul structures his letter around couplets, alluding to the symbiotic relationship the Thessalonians and the gospel ministers share.

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Practicality for the Local Church

- ❖ 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 (chapter 4)
- ❖ Eschatology and Ramifications (chapter 4:1 – 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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Introduction to 2 Thessalonians

Title

- ✓ Greek = *Pros Thessalonikeis Beta* (ΠΡΟΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΕΙΣ Β'; "To Thessalonians B"

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Introduction to 2 Thessalonians

WHO—Authorship

- ✓ The Apostle Paul, as well as Silvanus and Timothy (1:1)
- ✓ Primarily Paul (3:17)

WHO—Audience

- ✓ Believers dwelling in Thessalonica converted mostly from Gentile idol worship (1 Thess 1:9)

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Introduction to 2 Thessalonians

WHEN

- ✓ AD 51 (a few months after 1 Thessalonians)
- ✓ During Paul's Second Missionary Journey
- ✓ The Establishing of the Thessalonian Church—Acts 17:1–9

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Introduction to 2 Thessalonians

WHERE

- ✓ Paul, Silas and Timothy came from Philippi around 49-50 AD (Acts 17:1-9; Paul's Second Missionary Journey)
- ✓ Had to leave after a few months (Paul and Silas in prison)
- ✓ Wrote Thessalonian letters 1 (or 2) years later from Corinth (Acts 18:1ff)
- ✓ **1 Thessalonians**—Encouragement of God's Work inside the Church
- ✓ **2 Thessalonians**—Encouragement of God's Work outside of the Church.



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Introduction to 2 Thessalonians

WHY

To encourage a young and vibrant Thessalonian church to walk in a manner worthy of the calling of God, even amid suffering, by remaining steadfast in the hope for Jesus Christ's return when He will destroy the Antichrist in the Day of the Lord.

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Introduction to 2 Thessalonians

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ Brother(s) (1:3; 2:1, 13, 15; 3:1, 6 (2x), 13, 15)
- ✓ Love (1:3; 2:10, 13, 15; 3:5)
- ✓ Faith (or Believe; 1:3, 4, 10, 11, 13; 2:11, 12; 3:2)
- ✓ Persecution (or Trial, Temptation, Suffer, Suffering; 1:4 (2x), 5, 6 (2x), 7)

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Introduction to 2 Thessalonians

HOW—Themes

- ✓ Sanctified blameless life (2:13–14; 3:13)
- ✓ Paul’s model for new believers (1:7; 3:7–9)
- ✓ The Return of Christ
 - ❖ The Parousia (rapture and return of Christ events; 2:1–2, 8)
 - ❖ The Day of the Lord (2:2)
 - ❖ The Coming Wrath (1:6–8)
- ✓ Prayer (1:6–8)

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Introduction to 2 Thessalonians

HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ Grace and Peace Greeting (1:1–2)
- ✓ A Walk Worthy of the Kingdom (1:3–12)
 - ✓ The Deceptions of the Antichrist (2:1–12)
 - ✓ **Stand Firm** in Your Election (2:13–17)
 - ✓ Protection from the Evil One (3:1–5)
 - ✓ Abstain from the Unruly Walk (3:6–15)
- ✓ Grace and Peace Benediction (3:15–18)

The structure is framed around the use of the word “brothers”, which acts as a term of transition for each section. When “brothers” is used with “we” or “us” (i.e. gospel ministers), this highlights a new section beginning.

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Practicality for the Local Church

- ✓ 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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