

FIRST THESSALONIANS

1 Thess. 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ [positional truth]. Grace and prosperity to you.

1 Thess. 1:2 We always give thanks to God concerning all of you [you are not forgotten], continually making mention of you during our prayers,

1 Thess. 1:3 While unceasingly remembering your production [priestly function] from doctrine [application of the truth in your souls] and your labor [ambassadorship function] from the love complex [virtue love from the filling of the Spirit] and your patient endurance [passing momentum tests] based on confidence which rests on our Lord Jesus Christ [as opposed to self-confidence] in the face of God, even our Father,

1 Thess. 1:4 Knowing, brethren, having been loved in the past and continue to be loved in the present, your election by God [chosen by God in eternity past and cared for logistically at this very moment],

1 Thess. 1:5 For our gospel [message of good news] did not come to you in the sphere of word only [mere human philosophy], but also in the sphere of power [divine backing], even in the Holy Spirit [baptism of the Spirit placed all believers in union with Christ] and accompanied by full assurance [eternal security], even as you know beyond a shadow of a doubt the kind [quality] of men we showed ourselves to be for your benefit [example].

1 Thess. 1:6 And as for you [new believers], you became imitators of us [we stayed in Thessalonica as long as we could and taught you Bible doctrine] and of the Lord, having received [positive volition] the Word [Bible doctrine] while under frequent pressure [persecution] with inner happiness from the Holy Spirit [pressure caused them to utilize doctrine and grow spiritually],

1 Thess. 1:7 So that you became a pattern [Christian blueprint] to all those who are believers in Macedonia [northern Greece] and in Achaia [southern Greece].

1 Thess. 1:8 For from you the Word of the Lord sounded out in the past and is still sounding out in the present like a trumpet, not only in Macedonia and Achaia [within Greece], but in every place [outside Greece] your application of doctrine towards God [faith rest] has gone forth [worldwide evangelism], so that we [Paul's missionary team] do not have a need to say anything [in many cities Paul did not have to evangelize because the Thessalonians had gotten there first].

1 Thess. 1:9 Because they themselves [new converts] continue to report about you: what kind of reception we [Paul, Silas and Timothy] had in your presence [when we first came to Thessalonica], and how you turned to God away from idols for the purpose of serving as bondslaves to the living and true God,

1 Thess. 1:10 And to be waiting expectantly for His Son out from the heavens [at the rapture of the Church], Whom He [the Father] raised out from the dead [resurrection], Jesus, the One who will deliver us out from the wrath [the Church will not go through the tribulation] which is coming [imminency of the rapture prior to the tribulation].

1 Thess. 2:1 For you will recall, brethren, our initial visit among you [in Thessalonica], that it did not prove to be futile [believers did come to Christ],

1 Thess. 2:2 But having suffered before [beaten and tortured] and having been disgracefully mistreated

[imprisoned], as you know, in Philippi, we [nevertheless] spoke boldly and freely [with courage] in our God when we proclaimed the good news of God to you [in Thessalonica] while in a state of great opposition.

1 Thess. 2:3 For our declaration [of the gospel] *is* not from the source of [doctrinal] error nor impure motive [from living in the cosmic system] nor by means of deceit [treachery],

1 Thess. 2:4 But since we were tested and approved by God [for blessing] *as* being faithful with reference to the good news, in the same manner we keep on speaking, not as pleasing men [emptying the gospel message of its offensive content], but to God [motivational virtue from love for God in spiritual autonomy], Who ultimately tests and approves the mentality [thinking] of our souls [for rewards and blessings in eternity].

1 Thess. 2:5 Indeed, neither at any time did we become a flatterer in word, as you know, nor a pretext for covetousness [using the gospel as a cover-up to obtain money]. God is *our* witness [to our proper motivation].

1 Thess. 2:6 Nor did we seek glory [special treatment] from men, neither from you [Thessalonians] nor from others of the same kind [believers in other geographical locations]. When we were able to be burdensome [financially] on the grounds that *we were* apostles of Christ [legitimate authority],

1 Thess. 2:7 Instead, we became innocent [genuine humility] in your midst, as though *we were* a nursing mother taking care of her own children.

1 Thess. 2:8 In this manner, desiring to be with you, we took delight in sharing with you not only the gospel of God [evangelistic message], but also our own souls [the doctrinal content in our thinking], because you have become dear [close friends] to us.

1 Thess. 2:9 For you remember, brethren, our travail [mother's birth pangs] and labor [father's toil]: night and day we engaged in manual labor for your benefit [self-supporting missionary team], so that we would not have to financially burden you [as new believers] whenever we proclaimed the good news of God [Bible doctrine] to you.

1 Thess. 2:10 You *are* witnesses and so *is* God, concerning how we conducted ourselves in a manner pleasing to God [divine viewpoint], both just [with virtue] and blameless [with integrity] towards you who are believers [execution of the royal family honor code].

1 Thess. 2:11 As you know, like a father with his own children [with authority orientation], we exhorted [with doctrine] and comforted [with encouragement] each one of you [individually],

1 Thess. 2:12 As well as urging you to walk [conduct yourselves] in a manner worthy of God [according to divine standards] who called you into His own royal power [divine sphere of power] and glory [strategic and tactical victory in the angelic conflict].

1 Thess. 2:13 Moreover, for this reason [to spur your spiritual momentum forward], we also thank God unceasingly in our prayers, because when you received the Word [Bible doctrine] along with us, you welcomed the teaching *as* from God [divine origin], certainly not from man [human origin], in so far as it is truly the Word [doctrine] of God, which also continues to operate in you when you continue to trust it [exercise positive volition].

1 Thess. 2:14 For you, brethren [members of the royal family], became imitators of the assemblies of God which are in Judea [the first wave of persecution] in Christ Jesus, for you also suffered similar things from your own countrymen [conspirators], even as they [the Judeans] *suffered* from the Jews.

1 Thess. 2:15 Those [Jewish legalistic & criminal element] who murdered both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and harshly persecuted us [Paul and his missionary team were driven out of the region], and are not pleasing to God [cosmic 1: antagonism towards God] and *are* hostile to all men [cosmic 2: hating His evangelists],

1 Thess. 2:16 Who have forbidden us from talking to the Gentiles so that they might be saved, with the result that they [the legalistic Jews] are filling up the cup of their sins at all times [getting drunk on them over and over again]. But wrath [divine judgment] will come upon them at the end [the Great White Throne Judgment].

1 Thess. 2:17 But we, brethren [members of the royal family], although we have been separated from you for a short time [due to hostile forces in Thessalonica], physically *but* not mentally [we wanted to stay], we have made every effort with great enthusiasm [desire to be with them again] to see you physically all the more [in spite of the hostility].

1 Thess. 2:18 As a matter of fact, we wanted to return face-to-face to you, even I, Paul, and not just once but twice [we began our journey], but Satan prevented [detained] us.

1 Thess. 2:19 For what *is* our hope [seeing friends in heaven] or happiness [receiving our resurrection body] or crown of rejoicing [victory wreath: a reward for witnessing]? *Is it* not particularly [especially] you in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His return [at the rapture]?

1 Thess. 2:20 As for you [Thessalonian believers], you are our glory [rewards in eternity] and happiness [blessings in time].

1 Thess. 3:1 For this reason, when we could no longer endure it [wondering how things were going with you in Thessalonica], we resolved [thought it best after conferring with each other] to remain in Athens alone,

1 Thess. 3:2 But we sent Timothy [to you in Thessalonica], our brother [fellow believer] and ministering servant [member of our missionary team] of God in the gospel of Christ, for the purpose of stabilizing and encouraging you for the sake of your doctrine [you are ready to go beyond basic Bible teaching],

1 Thess. 3:3 So that no one will be disturbed [if they have attained spiritual self-esteem] by these outside pressures, for you yourselves know that we [Paul's missionary team, as well as all other believers] are appointed for this purpose [suffering is a requirement for spiritual growth].

1 Thess. 3:4 For indeed, when we were with you [in Thessalonica], we warned you repeatedly in advance that we are destined to suffer [as part of God's plan to bless us and propel our spiritual growth], just like *what* began to occur in the recent past [testing has officially started] and you are continuing to experience at the present time [the pressure is still on].

1 Thess. 3:5 Because of this [suffering], when I could no longer endure in silence [wondering how things were with you], I sent [Timothy] for the purpose of checking out [validating] your faith [whether you were successfully applying doctrine or not], in case by some means the one who tempts [Satan] had tempted you [caused you to reside in the cosmic system instead of the filling of the Spirit] and my labor to the point of exhaustion [teaching you doctrine] turned out to be in vain [wasted effort].

1 Thess. 3:6 But just now [as I'm writing this letter], Timothy has returned to us [in Corinth] from you [in Thessalonica] and has brought to us good news concerning your [application of] faith-rest and your virtue love, and that you continue to have a good remembrance of us always, having a desire to see us just as we [have a desire to see] you [reciprocal relationship].

1 Thess. 3:7 Because of this [favorable report on your spiritual progress] we were encouraged, brethren, by all of your necessary trouble [trials & testing] and outside pressure [suffering through difficult circumstances], our *encouragement* due to your application of doctrine,

1 Thess. 3:8 For now we are beginning to come back to life again [living life more enthusiastically], since you continue to stand firm in the Lord.

1 Thess. 3:9 For what thanks [sufficient gratitude] are we able to return to God concerning you, for all the inner happiness which we are pleased to possess because of you in the presence of our God,

1 Thess. 3:10 Praying exceedingly above and beyond, night and day, that we might see your face [in Thessalonica] and complete the things [advanced teachings] which are lacking with reference to your doctrinal framework?

1 Thess. 3:11 Now may God Himself, even our Father, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way [road, journey] to you.

1 Thess. 3:12 And may the Lord [Holy Spirit] cause you to grow [to super-abounding grace maturity] and abound [reach ultra-super-abounding grace status] by means of virtue love toward one another [fellow believers in Thessalonica] and toward all others [believers in other geographical locations], just as we [Paul and his missionary team] also [exercise virtue love] towards you [reciprocal relationship],

1 Thess. 3:13 To the end that He [the Holy Spirit] might complete the stabilization of the mentality of your souls [sanctification salvation] - blameless [fully sanctified] in the sphere of holiness [glorification salvation] before God [at the Judgment Seat of Christ], even our Father - before the coming [at the rapture] of our Lord Jesus with all of His saints [the dead in Christ whom He brings with Him to meet those who are alive]. Acknowledge it.

1 Thess. 4:1 For the rest then, brethren [members of the royal family], we keep on requesting and exhorting you in the sphere of the Lord Jesus [appealing to their positional status in Christ], so that just as you received from us how [the method] you ought to walk [precise protocol for the Church Age believer] and please God [by residence and function in the love complex], even as you are currently walking [they are on the right track spiritually], that you might abound all the more [grow to super-abounding grace and beyond],

1 Thess. 4:2 For you already know what instructions [mandates for living the Christian way of life] we gave to you through the Lord Jesus [divine authority].

1 Thess. 4:3 For this continues to be the will of God with reference to your experiential sanctification: You should abstain from sexual immorality,

1 Thess. 4:4 Each one of you should understand [learn how] that he is to possess [have sexual relations with] his own [not another man's] wife with dedication [fulfill her sexual desires] and honor [recognition of her sexual needs],

1 Thess. 4:5 Not with an uncontrollable urge of sexual lust [sinful rather than sanctified desire] in the same manner as unbelievers who indeed do not know God,

1 Thess. 4:6 That no *man* antagonizes [by flirting or making sexual advances towards another man's wife] or cheats [by committing adultery with another man's wife] his brother [fellow believer] in this matter [sins of sexual arrogance], because the Lord *is* the One who disciplines with reference to all of these things [sexual

sins], even as we previously warned and charged you with a solemn oath [this wasn't the 1st time Paul had warned them of this category of sins and the resultant divine discipline].

1 Thess. 4:7 For God did not call us to immorality [sexual impurity], but into the sphere of holiness [sanctification].

1 Thess. 4:8 For this very reason [due to our call to sanctification rather than immorality], he who continues to reject [ignore] *this warning* [to avoid sexual sins], is not rejecting man [cosmic 1: arrogance complex of sins], but God [cosmic 2: hatred complex of sins], Who has given His Holy Spirit to us [divine provision for spiritual growth].

1 Thess. 4:9 Now, concerning brotherly love, you have no need for me to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to exercise virtue love towards one another of the same kind,

1 Thess. 4:10 For indeed, you are doing it [exercising basic impersonal love] toward all the brethren in the whole area of Macedonia. However, we urge you, brethren, to abound [exercise advanced impersonal love] all the more [there's always room for improvement],

1 Thess. 4:11 And that you consider it an honor [aspiration] to live a quiet life [free from turmoil and disturbances] and mind your own business [respect the privacy of others] and work with your hands [continue your career or vocation], just as I have instructed you,

1 Thess. 4:12 In order that you may walk respectably [in your workplace and community] towards those on the outside [unbelievers] and have need of nothing [financial self-support].

1 Thess. 4:13 Now, we do not wish you to be ignorant, brethren [members of the royal family of God], concerning those [fellow believers] who are dying, so that you are not distressed, even as others [unbelievers] who do not have hope [of resurrection life].

1 Thess. 4:14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same manner [by resurrection], God will bring along with Him [at the rapture] those [believers] who have died with Jesus.

1 Thess. 4:15 For this [doctrine] we communicate to you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord [the rapture generation] shall not precede those who have died,

1 Thess. 4:16 Because the Lord Himself [Jesus Christ] will descend from heaven with a shouted command, with the voice of an archangel [Michael commands the believers who are alive on earth to receive their resurrection bodies] and with the trumpet of God [God the Father gives those believers who are already dead their resurrection bodies], and the dead in Christ will rise first [to meet the Lord in the air at the rapture],

1 Thess. 4:17 Then we who are living [the rapture generation] and who remain [on Earth] shall be caught up [transported] together [at the same time] with them [the resurrected dead] in the clouds to a meeting [royal reception] of the Lord in the air [lower atmosphere], and in this manner [in resurrection bodies] we shall always be together with the Lord [ultimate sanctification throughout eternity].

1 Thess. 4:18 Therefore keep on encouraging each other with these doctrines [concerning our resurrection bodies and the rapture].

1 Thess. 5:1 But concerning the extended periods of time [times of the Gentiles] and the appointed seasons [Tribulation & Millennium], brethren [members of the royal family], you do not have the need *for me* to write to you [you already understand the order of divine dispensations],

1 Thess. 5:2 For you yourselves know with accuracy that the Day of the Lord [Tribulation & Millennium] will come in the same manner as a thief in the night [suddenly and without warning after the rapture].

1 Thess. 5:3 When they [the international community] say, "Peace and safety," then sudden destruction will come upon them [peace efforts without God always fail] like the birth-pains which occur at closer and closer intervals to a pregnant woman in labor. Moreover, they [those living during the Tribulation] will not by any means escape.

1 Thess. 5:4 But you, brethren [members of the royal family], are not in the sphere of darkness [seed of the serpent], that this day [the Tribulation] might overtake you like a thief,

1 Thess. 5:5 Because all of you are sons of light [related to Jesus Christ] and sons of the day [part of the Church Age dispensation]. We [Church Age believers] are not of the night [the Tribulation] nor of the darkness [related to Satan].

1 Thess. 5:6 Therefore, let us not sleep [spiritual carelessness] as others [in Thessalonica], but let us be alert [spiritual alertness] and let us be self-controlled [stabilized mentally and emotionally].

1 Thess. 5:7 For those who are asleep [ignorant of eschatology], sleep up to the point of night [continue to be clueless right up to the rapture], and those who are drunk [intoxicated by Satan's system], drink up to the point of night [unprepared for the Lord's return].

1 Thess. 5:8 But let us who are of the day [Church Age dispensation] be habitually stabilized [mentally and emotionally], putting on the breastplate of doctrine and virtue love, and for a helmet, the confidence of deliverance [from the Tribulation],

1 Thess. 5:9 Because God did not appoint us [Church Age believers] to wrath [in the Tribulation], but to obtain deliverance [at the rapture] through our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Thess. 5:10 Who died for us [believers] so that as a result, whether we are awake [spiritually vigilant before the rapture] or asleep [spiritually indifferent before the rapture], we will live together with Him [as members of the royal family in heaven rather than going through the Tribulation].

1 Thess. 5:11 Therefore, keep on encouraging [by means of eschatology] one another of the same kind [fellow believers] and continue to build up [strengthen by means of Bible doctrine] one [pastor or teacher] to another [member of the congregation], just as you are indeed doing.

1 Thess. 5:12 Moreover, we urge you, brethren [members of the royal family], to fully appreciate those [pastors & teachers] who diligently labor to the point of exhaustion [studying] among you, and who periodically exercise authority [leadership that cares] over you in the Lord [legitimate delegated authority] and who teach you on a regular basis [continual doctrinal instruction],

1 Thess. 5:13 And to appreciate them [pastors & teachers] very highly in virtue love [love complex] because of their work [not their personality]. Live in peace with one another.

1 Thess. 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren [pastors of the local churches]: Keep on warning the rebellious ones [those who are reject Bible doctrine]; keep on encouraging the emotionally discouraged ones [those who are hysterical or otherwise out-of-balance]; keep on supporting the weak ones [new believers, babes in Christ]; keep on being patient with everyone [exercising impersonal love & faith rest].

1 Thess. 5:15 See to it *that* no one returns [retaliation] evil for evil [revenge motivation] to anyone, but make it a practice to pursue good towards each other [believers in your assembly] and all others [primarily believers in other assemblies and secondarily unbelievers].

1 Thess. 5:16 Always maintain inner happiness.

1 Thess. 5:17 Make it a habit to pray on a regular basis.

1 Thess. 5:18 In everything [situations in life] give thanks [gratitude], because this [being happy, praying and giving thanks] *is* the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thess. 5:19 Stop quenching the Spirit [with cosmic II involvement].

1 Thess. 5:20 Stop treating prophecies [such as the rapture, tribulation, 2nd advent, millennium] with contempt.

1 Thess. 5:21 Test for the purpose of approval [by the absolute standard of the Word of God] all things [the philosophical and psychological content provided by various communication mediums]; hold fast to [keep as a prized possession] the good [things which agree with Bible doctrine].

1 Thess. 5:22 Keep yourself free from every form of evil [avoid any type of activity in Satan's cosmic system].

1 Thess. 5:23 Now, may the God of peace Himself sanctify [ultimate sanctification] every part of you [the totality of your being]. As a matter of fact, may your spirit and soul and body be blamelessly maintained [experiential sanctification] until the coming [rapture] of our Lord Jesus Christ [when ultimate sanctification will occur].

1 Thess. 5:24 Faithful *is* He [God the Father] who called you [through positional sanctification into experiential sanctification], Who will also accomplish *it* [guaranteed ultimate sanctification].

1 Thess. 5:25 Brethren [members of the royal family], keep on praying for us [Paul's missionary team] also.

1 Thess. 5:26 Greet all the brethren [fellow believers] with a sanctified [respectful] kiss [shake hands].

1 Thess. 5:27 I solemnly charge you [pastors & teachers] by the authority of the Lord that you make this letter known publicly [read or teach its contents in detail] to all the brethren.

1 Thess. 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you.