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**1 Thessalonians 1**  
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By Dan Maines

## **1 Thessalonians 1**

### **1 Thessalonians 1:1**

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

† Paul includes his companions Silvanus and Timothy, reminding the church that ministry is shared in fellowship.

† The blessing of grace and peace unites the Father and the Son as the source of salvation.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Magnesians 1) opened with a similar greeting, emphasizing unity in God the Father and Christ.

### **1 Thessalonians 1:2-3**

We always give thanks to God for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers, constantly keeping in mind your work of faith, labor of love, and perseverance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father.

† Paul remembers the Thessalonians' faith, love, and hope, the three abiding virtues.

† These are not abstract ideas, but lived out in visible labor and perseverance.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 1) commended the same triad of faith, hope, and love in the Corinthian church.

### **1 Thessalonians 1:4-5**

We know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that He has chosen you, because 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 sakes.

† Their election was demonstrated by the power of the gospel working in their lives.

† The Spirit's presence gave assurance and conviction.

† Justin Martyr (First Apology 39) testified that the gospel's power transformed lives, confirming divine choice.

### **1 Thessalonians 1:6**

You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word during great affliction with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

† The Thessalonians followed the example of Paul and Christ Himself.

† They received the gospel joyfully despite persecution.

† Josephus (Wars 2.20.2) recorded the violence and unrest in Judea, providing the backdrop of affliction faced by believers.

### **1 Thessalonians 1:7-8**

So that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place the news of your faith toward God has gone out, so that we have no need to say anything.

† Their testimony spread across the region, becoming an example to other churches.

† The gospel's influence was carried outward through their steadfast witness.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 3.4) described how the faith of churches quickly spread throughout the Roman world.

### **1 Thessalonians 1:9-10**

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

† Their conversion was radical, turning from idols to the living God.

† They waited for Jesus' coming, which would bring deliverance from wrath.

† This wrath was approaching in their generation, culminating in the destruction of Jerusalem.

† Josephus (Wars 6.9.3) described the unparalleled wrath poured out on Jerusalem, fulfilling Paul's warning.

### **How it applies to us today**

† 1 Thessalonians 1 reminds us that true faith produces visible works of love and perseverance.

† Like the Thessalonians, we live in hope, assured that Christ

has already rescued His people from wrath.

† Today, in the fulfilled kingdom, our faith should be known everywhere as we turn fully to the living God.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

### Source Index

† Ignatius, Letter to the Magnesians 1 - unity in Father and Son in greetings

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 1 - faith, hope, and love in the church

† Josephus, Wars 2.20.2 - unrest and affliction in Judea

† Josephus, Wars 6.9.3 - unparalleled wrath on Jerusalem

† Justin Martyr, First Apology 39 - gospel's transforming power

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.4 - faith spreading through the empire

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