



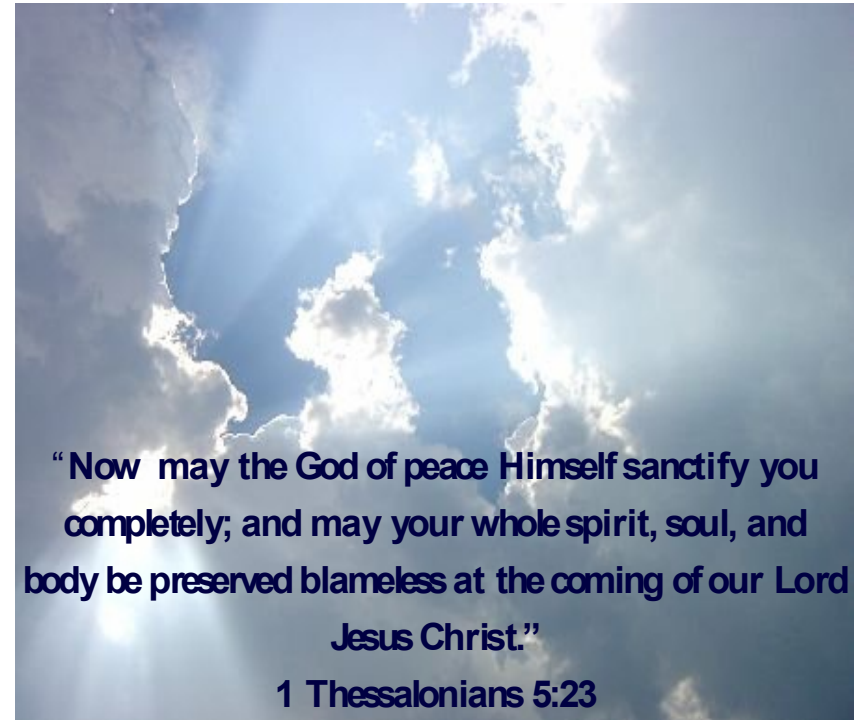
Notes

If you have questions during the week, please drop us an e-mail at jim@calvaryroswell.com or phil@calvaryroswell.com

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Thru the Scriptures 2006-08



1 Thessalonians 1-5

November 8th-14th, 2007

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Ti 3:16-17)

1 Thessalonians—

After Paul's forced separation from the Thessalonians, he grows increasingly concerned about the progress of their faith. His great relief upon hearing Timothy's positive report prompts him to write this warm epistle of commendation, exhortation, and consolation. They are commended for remaining steadfast under afflictions, exhorted to excel still more in their Christian walk, and consoled concerning their loved ones who have died in Christ. The theme of the coming of the Lord recurs throughout this epistle, and chapter 4, verse 13—chapter 5, verse 11, is one of the fullest New Testament developments of this crucial truth. The two major sections of First Thessalonians are: (1) Paul's personal reflections of the Thessalonians (1–3) and (2) Paul's instructions for the Thessalonians (4–5).

*Wilkinson, Bruce ; Boa, Kenneth: Talk Thru the Bible.
Nashville : T. Nelson, 1983, S. 419*

Helpful Study Links:

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)
http://preceptaustin.org/1_thessalonians_commentaries.htm

Sermon Links:

“Faith, Love, Hope, and Their Fruits”

by Alexander Maclaren

[http://www.preceptaustin.org/
maclaren_on_1thessalonians.htm#faith](http://www.preceptaustin.org/maclaren_on_1thessalonians.htm#faith)

“Sleep Not” by C H Spurgeon

<http://www.spurgeon.org/sermons/1022.htm>

“Living Christianly” by Ray C. Stedman

<http://www.pbc.org/library/files/html/4096.html>

Commentary:

The commentary used throughout this booklet is

With the Word Bible Commentary

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

ISBN 0-8407-9108-9



Author: Paul (1:1)



Time: Both Thessalonians epistles were written during Paul's second missionary journey, thus making them among the earliest of the New Testament books. After a brief stay in Thessalonica, Paul journeyed to the south through Berea and Athens to Corinth, where he spent eighteen months. During the early part of his stay in Corinth from a.d. 51 to 52, Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians.

How long did Paul minister in Thessalonica? Does the statement "three Sabbath days" (Acts 17:2) mean three weeks only, or that he preached in the synagogue only three weeks but continued in another place? We know that Paul was there long enough to receive two "home missions offerings" from the church in Philippi (Phil. 4:16). Also, Paul worked at his tent making trade to support himself (1 Thes. 2:9; 2 Thes. 3:6–15).

If Paul were there only three weeks, he certainly taught the new Christians a great deal of basic Bible doctrine. As we study these two letters, we will discover that almost every major doctrine of the Christian faith is mentioned.



Theme: Encouragement.

Encouragement thru Trials. After Paul's forced separation from the Thessalonians, he grew increasingly concerned about the progress of their faith. First Thessalonians was written to commend and encourage the Thessalonian believers, who were enduring persecution, and to offer consolation concerning their loved ones who had died in Christ.

Encouragement in Jesus return. The theme of Christ's coming recurs throughout the epistle, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11 provides one of the fullest New Testament treatments of this crucial truth.

The two major sections of 1 Thessalonians are: Paul's personal reflections of the Thessalonians (chs. 1–3), and Paul's instructions for the Thessalonians (chs. 4–5).

You can find the modern city of Salonika in modern day Turkey on your map, and when you do, you have found the site of the ancient city Thessalonica



Key: The Second coming of Jesus

One of the keys to this book, is to notice the consistent message of the return of Jesus Christ and how this vital doctrine can affect our lives and churches and make us more spiritual. Every chapter in 1 Thessalonians ends with reference to the coming of Jesus Christ, and each reference relates the doctrine to a practical aspect of Christian living.

In other words, Paul did not look on this doctrine as a theory to be discussed, but as a truth to be lived. Prophecy is meant to be practical! These letters encourage us to live “in the future tense” since Jesus could appear at any time. This truth is meant to effect the way we live.

I realize that godly men differ in their interpretations of prophecy, particularly the matter of the church escaping or entering the time of Tribulation. My own position is that the church will be taken to heaven before the Tribulation, and then will return to the earth with the Lord to bring the Tribulation to a close (Rev. 19:11ff). I see 1 Thessalonians emphasizing the Rapture of the church and 2 Thessalonians, the revelation of the Lord with the church when He comes to judge.

However, the practical spiritual lessons of these truths should not be lost in debates over interpretations. My own conviction is that we shall be delivered from “the wrath to come” (1 Thes. 1:10; 5:9–10). I believe the Lord wants us to live in the constant expectation of His coming.

Paul did not write these letters to stir up a debate. His desire was that these letters bless our lives and our churches. The doctrine of the Lord’s return is not a toy to play with, or a weapon to fight with, but a tool to build with. Believers may disagree on some of the fine points of Bible prophecy, but we all believe that Jesus Christ is coming again to reward believers and judge the lost. And we must all live in the light of His coming.

Your study of these letters should give you assurance for the future, encouragement in witnessing and walking with the Lord, comfort in the loss of Christian loved ones, and stability in a world that is very unsure of itself.

Outline 1 Thessalonians

- I. Salutation and greeting 1:1
- II. Personal commendations and explanations 1:2–3:13
 - A. Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians 1:2–10
 - 1. Summary statement 1:2–3
 - 2. Specific reasons 1:4–10
 - B. Reminders for the Thessalonians 2:1–16
 - 1. How the gospel was delivered 2:1–12
 - 2. How the gospel was received 2:13–16
 - C. Concerns for the Thessalonians 2:17–3:13
 - 1. on hearing about them 3:6–13
- III. Practical instructions and exhortations 4:1–5:24
 - A. Christian living 4:1–12
 - 1. Continued growth 4:1–2
 - 2. Sexual purity 4:3–8
 - 3. Brotherly love 4:9–12
 - B. The Rapture 4:13–18
 - C. Personal watchfulness 5:1–11
 - D. Church life 5:12–15
 - 1. Attitudes toward leaders 5:12–13
 - 2. Relationships among themselves 5:14–15
 - E. Individual behavior 5:16–24
 - 1. Personal actions and attitudes 5:16–18
 - 2. Actions and attitudes in corporate living 5:19–22
 - 3. Divine enablement 5:23–24
- IV. Conclusion 5:25–28

THE THESSALONIAN EPISTLES



Acts 17:1–15 records the founding of the church in Thessalonica. Paul ministered there a short time, possibly only a month; but the Lord did a great work, and the witness of the church was known far and wide.

Paul had to leave the city and was not able to return, so he sent Timothy to see how things were going. Paul wrote the first letter from Corinth (Acts 18:5) in response to Timothy's report (3:6). He wanted to encourage the saints in their Christian walk and assure them of his love and concern.

The second letter was written a few months later to encourage the church to be steadfast in the midst of persecution. Some of the people thought the “day of the Lord” had come, so Paul dealt with that theme as well. Both letters emphasize the coming of Christ and the practical effect it should have on our lives.

—*Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Ps 18:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.*

Daily Bible Study

Saturday, November 10th, 2007

Passage for today: 1 Thessalonians 1

Questions to Ponder

1. When Paul thought of the Thessalonians, what attitude marked his prayers for them?
2. What things did he note about them? How would you describe their overall character? How did they become believers?

With the word Bible Commentary

Paul's description of the believers in Thessalonica suggests that they typify an ideal congregation. Ask yourself these questions.

Are others thankful for me (1–4)? Paul was grateful for their faith, hope, and love, and that these Christian qualities revealed themselves in work, labor, and patience. Can others tell that we belong to God? Are they thankful for our spiritual growth?

Is God's power seen in my life (5–7)? This comes when you receive the Word of God by faith and allow the Spirit of God to minister to your heart. It also involves suffering for the Lord and letting Him give you His joy.

Do I make it easier for others to talk about Jesus (8–10)? Some believers are such poor examples as Christians that their lives give unbelievers an excuse for rejecting Christ. But the Thessalonian Christians made it easy for Paul to preach the gospel! Their testimony had gone before him and met him wherever he went.

Jesus' Return- Every chapter in 1 Thessalonians ends with a reference to the return of Jesus Christ, and that truth is applied to daily living. An eager looking for His return is an evidence of salvation (1:9–10), a motivation for soul winning (2:17–20), and an encouragement for holy living (3:11–13). This truth is a comfort in sorrow (4:18) and a stimulus to have more confidence in the Lord (5:23–24).

-Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary (Ps 18:1)*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Sunday, November 11th, 2007

Passage for today: 1 Thessalonians 2

Questions to Ponder

1. Describe Paul's conduct as a minister of the gospel. How is this an example for us today?
2. How did the Thessalonians welcome the word of God? Do you welcome it in a similar way?
3. In light of verse 16, why do you think Paul was persecuted?

With the word Bible Commentary

Faithfulness (1–6). Paul's sufferings in Philippi might have made him hesitate to minister in Thessalonica, but he was a steward who wanted to be faithful to the Lord. His message and motive were pure, and God blessed his ministry. It is better to be approved by God and suffer than to be applauded by men and prosper. When you feel like quitting, keep going (1 Cor. 4:2).

Gentleness (7–9). Young believers need a spiritual parent to lovingly nurture them in the Lord. Paul's ministry was motivated by love, not by pride or the desire for material gain.

Blamelessness (10–12). How important it is to be good examples before young believers! Children do what we do, not what we say. Does your example as a Christian make it easier for others to grow?

Eagerness (13–16). These people had an appetite for the Word of God, and that helped them to grow (Jer. 15:16; 1 Pet. 2:2). When they heard God's Word, they eagerly welcomed it and put it to work immediately.

Hopefulness (17–20). Paul hoped to visit his beloved friends again; but even if they did not meet on earth, he would meet them at the coming of the Lord. When Jesus comes, will you rejoice in His presence because of people you have influenced for Christ?

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary (Ps 18:1)*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Monday, November 12th, 2007

Passage for today: 1 Thessalonians 3

Questions to Ponder

1. What does this chapter say about persecution and suffering?
2. What was Timothy's report concerning the Thessalonians' faith? How did this report affect Paul? How does he pray for them?

With the word Bible Commentary

What should you do when people you love need your help, but you cannot go to them? The new believers in Thessalonica desperately needed Paul's ministry, but he was not able to return to help them. So, he did what he could.

First, he sent Timothy to minister to the church. If you cannot go, try to get somebody qualified to go in your place.

Then, he prayed for them (v. 10) because prayer is not limited by time or place. Your prayers for your loved ones will do more good than you realize, so keep praying.

Paul encouraged them by writing them at least two letters. His great concern was not their comfort or safety but their faith (vv. 2, 5–7, 10), their love (v. 12), and their obedience to the Lord (v. 13). Perhaps today you could write a letter or send a card to someone who needs your encouragement

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary (Ps 18:1)*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Tuesday, November 13th, 2007

Passage for today: 1 Thessalonians 4-5

Questions to Ponder

1. What aspects of Christian living are emphasized in this chapter? In verse 4, what does it mean to “possess his own vessel”? Is this something you aim to do on a daily basis? Where do we find the power to accomplish this?
2. How is the Lord’s return a comfort to the believer? Is the thought of Christ’s return a comfort to you?

With the word Bible Commentary

“More and more” should be the desire of the dedicated Christian (vv. 1, 10).

More holiness (1–8). Your body belongs to God, and His will is that you use it for holy purposes. Christ purchased your body (1 Cor. 6:18–20), the Spirit dwells in your body (v. 8), and the Father has called you to holy living (v. 7). Disobey and the penalties are great!

More love (9–10). You are taught to love by the Father (1 John 4:19), the Son (John 13:34), and the Spirit (Rom. 5:5). Love is one mark of the true believer (1 John 3:14).

More quietness (11–12). Because they expected the Lord to return any day, some believers had quit their jobs and become idlers and meddlers (2 Thess. 3:6–15). What kind of testimony would this be to the lost?

More hope (13–18). Christians sorrow because God made us to weep; but it is not the hopeless sorrow of the world. Jesus is coming again, and that means reunion and eternal rejoicing!

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary (Ps 18:1)*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Wednesday, November 14th, 2007

Passage for today: 1 Thessalonians 5

Questions to Ponder

1. How will the day of the Lord come upon the world? What will this mean for man in general? What will it mean for believers? As sons of light how should we live?
2. Take note of the practical exhortations in verses 14-22 and apply them to your own life. What areas require the most growth?

With the word Bible Commentary

False peace (1–11). The “day of the Lord” is that time when God will pour out His wrath on the world. God’s people have been saved from wrath, so they need not worry (v. 9; 1:10); but the lost world will be caught at a time when they think they are secure. To be ready for Christ’s coming, God’s people must be sober and live in the light.

Family peace (12–22). The local church fellowship should reflect God’s peace; and it will if God’s people obey authority, minister to one another, and submit to the Spirit of God. Verse 21 emphasizes the positive and verse 22 the negative, and both are important.

Faithful peace (23–28). Holiness and peace go together (Isa. 32:17), for the God who quiets the heart also cleanses the heart (James 3:17). A disturbed heart is sometimes evidence of unconfessed sin. God is faithful; let Him bring purity and peace to your heart.

Welcome the Spirit’s Ministry—“Do not quench the Spirit” (1 Thess. 5:19) is an admonition to Christians not to resist and reject the ministry of the Spirit. The image is that of fire (Isa. 34:4; Acts 2:3; Rev. 4:5). Just as fire brings light, heat, and cleansing, so the Spirit enlightens, enables, and purifies His people. Paul reminded Timothy to “stir up the gift of God” (2 Tim. 1:6), which means “get the fire burning again.” Are you allowing the fire to go out on the altar of your life (Lev. 6:9, 12)?

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Ps 18:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

***“Knowing, beloved brethren,
your election by God.”***

1 Thessalonians 1:4

Taken from *Morning and Evening*

By Charles Spurgeon

Many persons want to know their election before they look to Christ, but they cannot learn it thus, it is only to be discovered by "looking unto Jesus." If you desire to ascertain your own election;-after the following manner, shall you assure your heart before God. Do you feel yourself to be a lost, guilty sinner? go straightway to the cross of Christ, and tell Jesus so, and tell him that you have read in the Bible, "Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out." Tell him that he has said, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Look to Jesus and believe on him, and you shall make proof of your election directly, for so surely as thou believest, thou art elect. If you will give yourself wholly up to Christ and trust him, then you are one of God's chosen ones; but if you stop and say, "I want to know first whether I am elect," you ask you know not what. Go to Jesus, be you never so guilty, just as you are. Leave all curious inquiry about election alone. Go straight to Christ and hide in his wounds, and you shall know your election. The assurance of the Holy Spirit shall be given to you, so that you shall be able to say, "I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to him." Christ was at the everlasting council: he can tell you whether you were chosen or not; but you cannot find it out in any other way. Go and put your trust in him, and his answer will be-"I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. " There will be no doubt about his having chosen you, when you have chosen him.

"Sons we are through God's election,
Who in Jesus Christ believe."

***“Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul,
time and again— but Satan hindered us.”***

1 Thessalonians 2:18

Taken from *Morning and Evening*

By Charles Spurgeon

Since the first hour in which goodness came into conflict with evil, it has never ceased to be true in spiritual experience, that Satan hinders us. From all points of the compass, all along the line of battle, in the vanguard and in the rear, at the dawn of day and in the midnight hour, Satan hinders us. If we toil in the field, he seeks to break the ploughshare; if we build the wall, he labours to cast down the stones; if we would serve God in suffering or in conflict—everywhere Satan hinders us. He hinders us when we are first coming to Jesus Christ. Fierce conflicts we had with Satan when we first looked to the cross and lived. Now that we are saved, he endeavours to hinder the completeness of our personal character. You may be congratulating yourself, "I have hitherto walked consistently; no man can challenge my integrity." Beware of boasting, for your virtue will yet be tried; Satan will direct his engines against that very virtue for which you are the most famous. If you have been hitherto a firm believer, your faith will ere long be attacked; if you have been meek as Moses, expect to be tempted to speak unadvisedly with your lips. The birds will peck at your ripest fruit, and the wild boar will dash his tusks at your choicest vines. Satan is sure to hinder us when we are earnest in prayer. He checks our importunity, and weakens our faith in order that, if possible, we may miss the blessing. Nor is Satan less vigilant in obstructing Christian effort. There was never a revival of religion without a revival of his opposition. As soon as Ezra and Nehemiah begin to labour, Sanballat and Tobiah are stirred up to hinder them. What then? We are not alarmed because Satan hindereth us, for it is a proof that we are on the Lord's side, and are doing the Lord's work, and in his strength we shall win the victory, and triumph over our adversary.

Solution for Sleepy Saints

1 Thessalonians 5:6
Morning and Evening
by C H Spurgeon

There are many ways of promoting Christian wakefulness. Among the rest, let me strongly advise Christians to converse together concerning the ways of the Lord. Christian and Hopeful, as they journeyed towards the Celestial City, said to themselves, "To prevent drowsiness in this place, let us fall into good discourse." Christian enquired, "Brother, where shall we begin?" And Hopeful answered, "Where God began with us." Then Christian sang this song-

"When saints do sleepy grow, let them come hither,
And hear how these two pilgrims talk together;
Yea, let them learn of them, in any wise,
Thus to keep open their drowsy slumb'ring eyes.
Saints' fellowship, if it be managed well,
Keeps them awake, and that in spite of hell."

Christians who isolate themselves and walk alone, are very liable to grow drowsy. Hold Christian company, and you will be kept wakeful by it, and refreshed and encouraged to make quicker progress in the road to heaven. But as you thus take "sweet counsel" with others in the ways of God, take care that the theme of your converse is the Lord Jesus. Let the eye of faith be constantly looking unto him; let your heart be full of him; let your lips speak of his worth. Friend, live near to the cross, and thou wilt not sleep. Labour to impress thyself with a deep sense of the value of the place to which thou art going. If thou rememberest that thou art going to heaven, thou wilt not sleep on the road. If thou thinkest that hell is behind thee, and the devil pursuing thee, thou wilt not loiter. Would the manslayer sleep with the avenger of blood behind him, and the city of refuge before him? Christian, wilt thou sleep whilst the pearly gates are open-the songs of angels waiting for thee to join them-a crown of gold ready for thy brow? Ah! no; in holy fellowship continue to watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation.

Watch and Pray

There is nothing that can lift our hearts out of the deep mire of this cold and hard and sinful world like being reminded that *Christ is coming*. The New Testament is full of exhortations that call us to watch for that blessed Day and spend our days praying until it comes. Why is that so?

How often is it that you become discouraged? Have you found that discouragement often comes from and causes us to put our eyes on the temporal activities of this earth. It causes us to lose hope by pulling our hearts, which have been made for eternity, into being entangled in the affairs of this life. This is sure recipe for discouragement. The Lord knows that our hearts are very prone to getting stuck in the sludge of our little lives. He knows that we are wired to become fixed on this temporal world instead of staying established in our hearts on our heavenly home. He knows. And what is His anecdote?

“Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us **watch and be sober**.” (I Thessalonians 5:6)

“But the end of all things is at hand; therefore **be serious and watchful in your prayers**.” (1 Peter 4:7)

“But **take heed to yourselves**, let your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly... **Watch therefore and pray always** that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

(Luke 21:34,36)

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also **eagerly wait** for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that is may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able tend to subdue all things to Himself.” (Phil. 4:20:21)

Saint, are you watching and praying? Are you living soberly and seriously while eagerly awaiting your Savior?

“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Taken from *Morning and Evening*

By Charles Spurgeon

Heaven is a place where we shall never sin; where we shall cease our constant watch against an indefatigable enemy, because there will be no tempter to ensnare our feet. There the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest. Heaven is the "undefiled inheritance"; it is the land of perfect holiness, and therefore of complete security. But do not the saints even on earth sometimes taste the joys of blissful security? The doctrine of God's word is, that all who are in union with the Lamb are safe; that all the righteous shall hold on their way; that those who have committed their souls to the keeping of Christ shall find him a faithful and immutable preserver. Sustained by such a doctrine we can enjoy security even on earth; not that high and glorious security which renders us free from every slip, but that holy security which arises from the sure promise of Jesus that none who believe in him shall ever perish, but shall be with him where he is. Believer, let us often reflect with joy on the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints, and honour the faithfulness of our God by a holy confidence in him. May our God bring home to you a sense of your safety in Christ Jesus! May he assure you that your name is graven on his hand; and whisper in your ear the promise, "Fear not, I am with thee." Look upon him, the great Surety of the covenant, as faithful and true, and, therefore, bound and engaged to present you, the weakest of the family, with all the chosen race, before the throne of God; and in such a sweet contemplation you will drink the juice of the spiced wine of the Lord's pomegranate, and taste the dainty fruits of Paradise. You will have an antepast of the enjoyments which ravish the souls of the perfect saints above, if you can believe with unstaggering faith that "faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

Encouragement in the Midst of Persecution

1 Thessalonians

The people of Thessalonica were experiencing severe persecution. They were suffering for the name of Christ. Paul noted this in the letter and actually rejoiced that they were following the example given them by the churches of God which were in Judea. The churches in Judea had undergone severe persecution and the church there in Thessalonica was doing the same. Paul praised God for their faith and for God's work being done in them. He even pointed out that they were being an example themselves to the churches around them in Macedonia and Achaia. But one thing that stands out in this letter as being one predominant theme of encouragement toward its readers is that *Christ is coming back!*

What a word of encouragement! Paul did not offer these suffering saints psychological words of the world. He did not offer them temporary "band aids" to "help" them in their time of suffering for the name of Christ. Paul wrote to his brothers and sisters there in Thessalonica and told them to fix their hope on the return of the one Living Christ who had set them free from the bondage of sin "in word... in power...in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance."

It is most worthy of noting in this little letter the multiple times that Paul mentions Christ's coming. Do you see him urging them to look heavenward and to live in such a way that would build a hope and a longing for that time when our Lord would come and take them home? Do you see him pointing toward heaven and exhorting to his fellow sufferers in Christ to set their hearts and their lives on that Day? This, Christian, is true encouragement!

Saint, are you beat down by this world? Are you being trodden down by persecution? Are you suffering for the name of Christ? Are you bound by cold threats from family or friends or co-workers who just don't understand why you're "so different"? If so, be encouraged that one Day it will all be worth it. All the threats, all the slandering, all the back-biting and all the revilings of the world will be put to rest. You will enter into your reward with Christ and all His saints. And you will know, at that time, that all of this has been worth it.

