

1 and 2 Thessalonians

*. Where is Thessalonica?

Located in Macedonia on the Ignatian Way; capital of the province; Paul visited on 2nd missionary journey.

*. Who wrote the letter?

1st Thess = Agreement that Paul wrote this letter – early church fathers supported this conclusion, authorship stated in the letter, the situation of the church is primitive as it would be during the time of Paul, and the letter harmonizes with Acts

2nd Thess – Agreement that Paul wrote this letter – early church fathers agree; authorship is stated in the letter

*. When was it written?

Paul was waiting in Corinth for news from church in Thessalonica after he had been forced to leave; Timothy and Silas meet Paul in Corinth with a good report and with questions

1st Thess. written about 50-51 AD and 2nd Thess. written shortly after about 51 AD

*. Why was it written?

1st Thess. written: to express relief at their standing firm, to encourage them to endure persecution; to rebuke idleness; and to explain some about the 2nd coming of Christ.

2nd Thess. written: to encourage them to endure persecution; to correct ideas regarding the return of the Lord; and to command the church to discipline the idlers

*. What is the main topic?

A connection exists between the 2nd coming of Christ and practical Christian living.

1 Thess. 1:1-10: ¹ Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ² We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers; ³ constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, brethren beloved by God, *His* choice of you; ⁵ for 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 sake. ⁶ You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ 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.

1 Thess. 5:1-11: ¹ Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. ² For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. ³ While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ⁶ so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

2 Thess. 3:11-13: ¹¹ For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. ¹³ But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.