

## Purpose

To strengthen the Thessalonian Christians in their faith and give them the assurance of Christ's return

## Author

Paul

## To Whom Written

The church at Thessalonica

## Date Written

Approximately 51 AD, from Corinth, one of Paul's earliest letters

## Setting

The Thessalonian Christians needed to mature in their faith. In addition, there was a misunderstanding concerning Christ's second coming. Some thought Christ would return immediately, and thus they were confused when their loved ones died, because they expected Christ to return beforehand.

## Key People

Paul, Timothy, and Silas

## Key Verse

"Since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus comes, God will bring back with Jesus all the Christians who have died."

*1 Thessalonians 4:14*

## An Overview (5 Chapters)

- Faithfulness to the Lord (*1:1-3:13*)
- Watchfulness for the Lord (*4:1-5:28*)

## Major Themes

- *Persecution:* Paul and the new Christians at Thessalonica experienced persecution because of their faith in Christ. We can expect trials and troubles as well. We need to stand firm in our faith in the midst of trials, being strengthened by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit helps us to remain strong in faith, able to show genuine love to others, and maintain our moral character even when we are being persecuted, slandered, or oppressed.
- *Paul's Ministry:* Paul expressed his concern for this church even while he was being slandered. Paul's commitment to share the gospel in spite of difficult circumstances is a model we should follow.
- *Hope:* One day all believers, both those who are alive and those who have died, will be united with Christ. To those Christians who died before Christ's return, there is hope — the hope of the resurrection of the body.
- *Being Prepared:* No one knows the time of Christ's return. We are to live moral and holy lives, ever watchful for His coming. Believers must not neglect daily responsibilities, but always work and live to please the Lord.