

November 16, 2025
I Thessalonians 1:1-6 An Introduction
Faith, Love, And Hope, Characterizations Of The Chosen

Author: Paul. Paul was accompanied by Timothy and Silvanus also known as (Silas).

Date: A. D. 51-52. Paul was in Thessalonica for only a brief period of time. He left there and went to Berea, Athens, and to Corinth where he remained for 18 months. There is strong evidence that Paul, while in Corinth between A. D. 51-52, wrote **I Thessalonians**.

Purpose: Timothy had remained in Thessalonica for an extended period of time. Later on Timothy traveled to Corinth and reported to Paul of existing problems within the church. Reasons for writing include (1) Paul wished to express his gratitude for the believers and encourage their growth in Christ. (2) Some of the people had lost loved ones and they wondered what would happen with them at the time of Jesus' return. Paul wrote to reassure them of what would take place. (3) Paul wanted to encourage the believers to work and be busy until Jesus' return. (4) Paul needed to deal with certain errors in their thinking and lifestyles. (5) Paul wished to defend his conduct and motives against some opponents who were seeking to undermine his authority and work there.

Theme: The book is concerned with the doctrine of last things. This is called eschatology. Each chapter contains some element of positive reference to the promised return of Christ and its significance to believers. The hope of the Lord's return should effect all believers in a positive way in their conduct and spiritual growth. This is available only to those who know Jesus as their personal Savior.

Significance of Thessalonica: This city was the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia. It was situated on a major road called the Egnatian Way. Thessalonica was an important military town. It was also a center of trade and commerce, ideally suited to serve as a part of Paul's missionary strategy of concentrating on centers of influence which could be responsible for the evangelization of the territories around them.

Thessalonica consisted of an estimated 200k people in biblical times by most estimates. There was a significant Jewish synagogue there and many proselytes. Thessalonica is called Salonica (or Thessaloniki) today with a population of around 300k-400k. It is believed that **I Thessalonians** was one of Paul's earliest inspired epistles, probably second after Galatians. The above gleaned from the *Believer's Study Bible*

Notice Paul's doctrinal insertion of election by calling the brethren the "chosen." in **v 4**.

Paul's converts were a supernatural work of God, not simply a clearly delivered sermon. Paul's message to them was marked by the power of God the Holy Spirit. This conversion came with deep conviction of the genuineness of their profession of faith.

The occasion for the letter is four fold. (1)Encouragement for the saints in the face of persecution. (2)To address efforts to undermine Paul's reputation and to address accusations regarding his sincerity in the ministry. (3)To address confusion as to what happens to those who die in Christ before His return. (4)To address areas of individual and community life that needed improvement.

This epistle is packed with doctrine: inspiration and authority of Scripture, One God in three persons, the deity of Christ, and salvation based on the death and resurrection of Christ, doctrine of personal sanctification as relates to personal purity, love, vocational diligence, and the value of discipling others. The largest theological contribution is that of eschatology. The above gleaned from *Robert L. Thompson*

The threefold nature of the Thessalonians progress was continual: work, labor, and endurance. This calls for Christian character qualities of: faith, love, and hope. All of these combined made cause for thanksgiving.

The believers in Thessalonica welcomed the message even though it entailed suffering. This church suffered at the hands of their own countrymen. Christian persecution is on the rise in the USA; as your pastor I urge you to prepare your mind and heart to remain strong in your faith should you encounter persecution.

Endurance or perseverance, v 3, produces the idea of steadfastness. For a good, biblical source explaining hope, see [Hebrews 6:18-20](#).

In v 4 the word "chosen" speaks to the doctrine of election. For further biblical support see [John 15:16](#). [Ephesians 1:1- 2:5](#).

Application:

The Thessalonians conversion brought joy in the midst of suffering. When the gospel was preached tremendous persecution and opposition broke out against them all. Fakers recant, genuine Christians endure the hardship with God given joy. The more they were tested as though by fire the more genuine their faith proved to be. Human joy dissipates under persecution, the joy of the Holy Spirit grows. Got joy?