

THE FIRST EPISTLE OF **THESSALONIANS**

CHAPTER 1:1-4

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SM 226 ~ MARCH 24, 1996

TITLE:

"HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO BE - PT 1"
BEING READY TO MEET THE LORD

THEME:

1 Thessalonians 1:10

"We are to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."

INTRODUCTION *Background to Thessalonians*

On Paul's Second Missionary

journey, Paul took with him Silas, one of the church leaders. Arriving in Derby, Timothy joined the mission team & outreaches. It was this trip that Paul received from the Lord the Macedonian call which led them into the area of Europe and eventually to Thessalonica

Thessalonica (Solonica) today is still located in its historic spot at the North end of the Aegean Sea in eastern Europe. It was a chief Roman City, well populated and wealthy. The famous Egnatian Way (Rome's greatest freeway Passed right through Thessalonica)

Here, a Church was Born

Acts 17:1-4

Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. :2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, :3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." :4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. (a church was born)

The Letter was written in 51-52 AD. By Paul the Apostle

The Book Focuses on Several Important Lessons

1. The Doctrine of: God's Ability to Preserve Us in Trials & Testing
2. The Doctrine of: The Death of the Christian
3. The Doctrine of: Church Conduct
4. **What I find most Interesting** About This Book is that Paul, in just a week period of time stressed to them the Doctrine of Jesus' Return to Earth

Do not Be Uninformed Christians

#1 Concerning Those who have Died

1 Thessalonians 4:13

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

#2 Concerning Time

2 Peter 3:8

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (KJV)

#3 Concerning The Rapture of the Church

1 Thessalonians 4:17

we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

#4 Concerning Spiritual Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

#5 Concerning Time

2 Corinthians 2:11

lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

By the Way

It is the Imminent Return of Jesus Christ that Causes Us to Teach the Word of God - To Evangelize the World - To personally be Ready & Watching

1 Corinthians 14:38

**But if anyone is ignorant, let him be ignorant.
(If you want to be stupid - then stay stupid)**

Chapter Division

1.) The Church: An **Elect** People vv. 1-4

2.) The Church: An **Exemplary** People vv. 5-7

3.) The Church: An **Enthusiastic** People v. 8

4.) The Church: An **Expectant** People vv. 9-10

The Church: An Elect Group of People
vv. 1-4

1.) Paul's Greeting to the Church (Passion)

a) Paul's Faithful to Communicate vv. 1a

It had been four weeks since he had left them - The church was only a couple months old at this point.

"To The Church"

* **Church** GRK 1577 **ekklesia** (ek-klay-see'-ah)
a called out group, a chosen and set apart people

THE WORD **ekklesia** WAS A VERY COMMON WORD THAT MEANT ANY GATHERING OF PEOPLE FOR A PURPOSE....

The Difference was
"These were **IN** God - Rather than **IN** an auditorium"

Called Out from the People of the world
Set Apart from the Ways of the World

THE CHURCH IS NOT A SOCIAL CLUB

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a **chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **His own special people**..... :10
who once were **not a people** but are now **the people of God**,

The Church **IN** God ••••• The Church **IN** Christ

John 10:27-29

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. :28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. :29 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

{**IN**} God the Father and {**IN**} the Lord Jesus Christ

Living - Being - Abiding - Homing....
IN God & **In** Christ

Acts 17:28
"for IN Him we live and move and have our being."

b) The Security of their Salvation vv. 1b

Jesus' Concept of Pastoring

Luke 15:3-4
So He spoke this parable to them, saying :4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?"

c) The Church Receives Special Attention vv. 1c

"Grace to You" "Peace to You"

* **Grace GRK 5485 charis (khar'-ece)**
graciousness. A divine influence upon the heart, Being acceptable, gifted, Being favouritized... to receive what is not deserved

* **Peace GRK 1515 eirene (i-ray'-nay)**
To join together. A quietness, A rest, To be set at one again. (To make up)

**You will always find these two "Siamese twins" of
the Bible together**

**You Cannot Have The Peace of God
Until you Have the Grace God**

**From God {OUR} Father and
From (OUR) the Lord Jesus Christ
vv. 6 Trinity**

Verse 2

I Can Say This About You:

You are people who have come from many varying backgrounds
many different churches & Occupations & Callings

Yet God has melted us and Molded us into a church that is very
special”

If you are new Here.... Be asking the Lord “In what way am I to be a part of the fellowship - Feeding!
- Always. Severing! - In His Time.

Verse 3a

“Remembering Without Ceasing”

Memories

The More I remember about the church...

The More I Give Thanks for the Church...
The More I Remember, The More I Give Thanks,
The More I Pray

Verse 3b

Faith Hope & Love

Someone will call the Church asking...
“Where Are You Guy's At ?”

In The Lord !!!

We should be able to locate a church not by the address,
but by the attributes of the Holy Spirit

Verse 4a

* **Knowing** GRK 1492 eido (i'-do)
to become aware of by observation, to hold or take into the eyes. To perceive and to be sure!

Paul Was Convinced of their Salvation

(because of verse 3)

a.) He acknowledged them as True Believers

They were Christians and Paul could tell by their actions. He had seen them in action - Chino Hills & Beyond

work of Faith

Your Work of Faith

Works & Faith are 100% complimentary.
True Faith produces the Works

James 2:22

Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

[SOMEONE NEAR US NEEDS TO RECEIVE AN ACT OF CHRISTIAN FAITH]

labor of love

Your Labor of Love

Labor & Love are 100% complementary.
True Love Produces the Labor

Bernard Shaw writes about needing to stay the night in Russian peasant home. There, There was the daughter of the house sewing, sewing, sewing and when he asked "My dear, don't you ever get tired of sewing - she quickly responded "No, this is my wedding dress" - that's a Labor of Love

[SOMEONE NEAR US NEEDS TO RECEIVE AN ACT OF CHRISTIAN LOVE]

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,;25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

patience of hope

Galatians 5:5

For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

The World Has No True Hope (only an imagined hope)

Hope in God is an Enduring, Lasting, Firm Hope

Your Patience of Hope
Patience & Hope are 100% complimentary.
True Hope Produces the Patience

1 Peter 1:13

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; **set your hope** fully on the grace that is to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Hebrews 6:10

For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. :11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. (Because your hope is surely established)

How Can The World Tell That You're Are Christian?

(a T-shirt - a Bumper Sticker - a Bible)

It was obvious to Paul by what he saw
from those who said they were Christians

[SOMEONE NEAR US NEEDS TO RECEIVE AN ACT OF CHRISTIAN HOPE]

Verse 4b

b.) He was Certain of their Eternal Destiny

God never performs a recall
with His elections

The Assurance of Your Salvation
is guaranteed

Psalm 138 & Philippians 1:6

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Election **GRK 1589 ekloge (ek-log-ay')**
The (divine) selection. To be divinely chosen,
Voted in Favor of.

The Doctrine of Divine Election and Man's Decision
is a mystery to us and will never be fully understood here on earth...

But we must realize this;

As far as God the Father is Concerned:

He Saved us, chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world was ever made.

(**Ephesians 1:4** just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,)

As far as God the Son is Concerned:

He Saved us at that amazing moment when Jesus cried out "It is Finished" and died upon the cross.

(**Luke 23:34** Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.")

As far as God the Holy Spirit is Concerned:

He Saves us the moment we received Jesus Christ, That is by asking Him into our hearts!

(**John 7:39** But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;)

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

1 John 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

Verse 4b

c.) Paul's Good Words caused them to Rejoice

to be called "brother" - Paul's Brother

Paul using an ancient title here:

The Hebrews reserved this title "brothers" for the Patriarchs of the Faith...
The Moses', The David's...

Romans 12:5

so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one

- Billy Graham is my Brother
- Henrietta Mears is my Sister
- Dwight L. Moody is my Brother
- Helen Keller is my Sister
- Charles Spurgeon is my Brother
- **Sir Isaac Newton** is my Brother
- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is my Brother
- Johann Kepler is my Brother

(Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, John, Peter, Ruth, Deborah, Esther)

WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE - ALOT

BUT ONE THING IS NEGLECTED TODAY

The Ministry of The New Believer - Is Now !!!

The Ministry of The Old Believer - Is Now !!!

Is Time the Issue - You Are Being Robbed

**You will never Have Enough Time
- Unless You Give God your Time First**

**You will never Have Enough Time
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