

## I and II Thessalonians – During Paul’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey

### Purpose:

- Particularly instanced by the travels of Timothy (I Thessalonians 3:1-2, 6) while in Paul is in Corinth – Local and intimate
- Written because of the separation of the founding missionary and the new congregation (2:13) – Encouraged by good report, a personal burden of Paul
- Written because of the active persecution (2:14-16) the Thessalonian believers were dealing with – Paul doesn’t really care what he WENT through, he’s concerned about what they’re GOING through
- Written because of their immaturity (newness, not apostasy) – Written out of pastoral necessity for continued instruction (3:10, 13)

### Primary Content:

- Encouragements – Chapters 1-3
- Special Instructions
  - Sexual immorality – 4:1-8
  - Rapture – 4:13-18
  - Day of the Lord – 5:1-11
- Bullet-point key instructions for Christian walk – 5:12-28

**Similarly, II Thessalonians** is extremely similar in context, being a continuation of communication during the same basic time frame (18 months in Corinth)

- Encouragement
- Special instructions – Satan, the anti-Christ, final apostasy
- Key instructions for Christian walk

### I Thessalonians 1:1

- ID Paul, Silas, Timothy
- Shalom – more than peace, but “meaning peace, completeness, and welfare and can be used idiomatically to mean both hello and goodbye” – Wikipedia
- Grace – Unmerited favor, a gift, God reaching out to man. His work in us, including salvation and sanctification.

### I Thessalonians 1:2-5a

- V2-3 Prayer, work of faith, Labor of love, Steadfastness of hope
- V4-5 God’s love for them God’s election  
Attested by conviction of the Holy Spirit

I Thessalonians 1:5b-7 They followed Paul & Co.’s example  
They became an example

I Thessalonians 1:8-9 Thessalonian reputation preceded them of their conversion  
from idolatry to Christianity

I Thessalonians 1:10 The End-Times emphasis of I and II Thessalonians