

## FIRST THESSALONIANS

Page 1

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### INTRODUCTION

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1. The evangelization of Europe began when Paul answered the Macedonian call and entered the city of Philippi.
  2. Paul then followed the Egnatian Way and entered the city of Thessalonica.
  3. City had been founded in 315 B.C. by Cassander, an officer under Alexander the Great. He married Alexander's half sister, Thessalonica and named the city for her.
  4. Might note that Paul wrote one epistle to Philippi, which was founded by Philip II, also two letters to the church at Thessalonica, a city named in honor of Philip's daughter.
  5. This was a great city. A capital, and a free city.
  6. "Politarch" (Acts 17:6,8). Thought to be an error by Luke - then in 17 inscriptions found at Salonica containing this very term proved that Luke right
  7. Basically a Greek city, had many Jews, as a result man "God fearers". A very rich source of converts.
  8. Paul stayed briefly (question as to how long) then journey to Athens and to Corinth. From Corinth penned both epistles to the church.
  9. DATE about 51 - 53 A.D.
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### WHY HE WROTE

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1. To meet head-on the whispering campaign with reference to his "personality" and motives (chapter 1 & 2).
  2. To express his joy and gratitude because of the good news which Timothy had brought (chap. 3 ).
  3. To shed more light upon the question which had arisen with respect to those who had fallen asleep (4:13-18) and the related question of the manner of Christ's return (5:1-11).
  4. And general information for those who had just recently been delivered from the power of darkness into the kingdom of Light (question concerning idolatry, immorality, etc.
  5. Hence the infant church faced a duet of deadly foes..Judaism and Paganism.
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### ASSURANCE

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- A. The persecuted saints of Macedonia needed assurance that the religion they had embraced was of divine origin.
- B. The epistle supplies this assurance in several ways.
  1. Christianity had been established in their presence by the powerful display of miracles. "Not in word only."
  2. Gospel brought by men who proved themselves by their behavior. How

## FIRST THESSALONIANS

Page 2

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they worked and what they suffered.

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### ASSURANCE cont.

3. The gospel they had received was designed to bring out the finest of their hearts. It made them live as heavenly minded people in a world of evil doers. (The kind of men the gospel builds is an irrefutable evidence of its divine origin.
  4. The author of Christianity is divine. His first coming, His life on earth, His death, His burial, His resurrection, His ascension and His second coming  
all combine to evidence the divine reality of Christianity.
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### FINAL THINGS

- A. Some questions that are raised.
    1. What is the state of the righteous dead?
    2. The question of another life other than this one.
    3. The second coming of the Savior.
    4. Man's personal preparation for this second coming.
  - B. God's children can best be ready by diligence in:
    1. Watching
    2. Waiting
    3. Working
    4. Worshiping.
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### The Salvation Of Man

- A. Man's salvation lead to God's glory and the exaltation of Christ as the divine Agent who made such possible.
    1. Grace of god..... 1<sup>st</sup> verse to last verse.
  - B. The Thessalonians are referred to as:
    1. The church. This implies saved people (Acts 2)
    2. They were elected because of their reception of the gospel.
    3. They had turned from idols unto God.
    4. They were proclaiming the gospel of salvation to their fellow man.
    5. They were waiting for the Son from heaven.
    6. Knew that continued faithfulness was essential for their ultimate salvation  
in heaven.
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## FIRST THESSALONIANS

Page 3

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### ISSUES OF TODAY

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A. Grace - Grace without obedience.

1. 1:3
2. "Work of faith - labor of love - patience of hope.
3. Paul knew that the grace of God had saved those at Thessalonica when faith worked and whose love labored.

B. Neo-Pentecostalism:

1. Much claims today...where is the evidence.
2. Paul didn't tell of miracles done in time passed or other places. But they could see the mighty works of God.

C. IMMORALITY:

1. The new morality"
  2. "Situation ethics"
  3. How to get along with our fellow men.
  4. Read Chapter 4:1-12.
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### SENTENCE SERMONS

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1. Know them who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you.
  2. Be at peace among yourselves. ‘
  3. Warn them that are unruly.
  4. Comfort the feeble of spirit. ‘
  5. Support the weak in body.
  6. Be patient toward all.
  7. See that none render evil for evil.
  8. Follow that which is good.
  9. Rejoice evermore.
  10. Pray without ceasing.
  11. In everything give thanks.
  12. Quench not the Spirit
  13. Despise not prophesying.
  14. Prove all things. ‘
  15. Hold fast that which is good.
  16. Abstain from all evil.
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