



In the 1st century Thessalonica was the capital of Macedonia and a thriving commercial center with a population of about 200,000. The church of Thessalonica was founded by Paul and Silas on Paul's 2nd missionary journey in the spring of AD 50. While Paul communicated much truth to the group of young believers at Thessalonica regarding eschatology, these epistles also cover many additional doctrinal and practical problems.

Outline

- **Preview**Introduction
- **Background: 1 Thessalonians**Various
- **Background: 2 Thessalonians**Various



Truths & Principles

- ✓ All who believe in Christ will live with Him forever.
- ✓ The Gospel is not only what we believe but also what we must live.
- ✓ Christ will return and bring total victory to all who trust in Him.
- ✓ Before Christ's return, a great rebellion against God will be led by the man of lawlessness.



Applications

- ✓ Be confident that at death, or at the Rapture, we will be with loved ones who also trusted in Christ.
- ✓ Live as though you expect Christ's return at any time. Don't be caught unprepared.
- ✓ The hope of Christ's return should motivate us to make the most of the time we have left on earth.
- ✓ We should not be afraid when we see evil increase. God is in control, no matter how evil the world becomes. We can have victory over evil by remaining faithful to God.



Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21

1. Where did Paul write the Thessalonian Epistles? _____
2. What decade were the Thessalonian Epistles written? _____
3. Which chapter in the book of Acts describes Paul's time in Thessalonica? ____
4. On what missionary journey did Paul first visit Thessalonica? _____
5. Why did Paul write 1st Thessalonians? _____
6. Why did Paul write 2nd Thessalonians? _____
7. What key themes appear in 1st Thessalonians? _____
8. What key themes appear in 2nd Thessalonians? _____
9. Who was the city of Thessalonica named after? _____
10. Where did Paul and Silas go after being expelled from Thessalonica? _____
11. What theme is presented at the end of each chapter of 1st Thessalonians? _
12. What is offered at the end of each chapter of 2nd Thessalonians? _____

Study Questions

1. Read through the entire book of 1 Thessalonians, in one sitting.
 - ❖ Is this a long epistle?
 - ❖ Is it more practical than doctrinal?
 - ❖ Are there many personal references?
 - ❖ Did you sense any particular tone or atmosphere in the letter?
 - ❖ Does Paul seem to have one specific purpose in writing?
 - ❖ What are your personal impressions of the book?
 - ❖ Did you detect a turning point in the letter? If so, where, specifically?
 - ❖ Would you say that there is a definite climax toward the end of the epistle?
If so, where, specifically?
2. Read the first and last paragraphs of 1 Thessalonians.
 - ❖ What verse(s) would you identify as the introduction?
 - ❖ What verse(s) would you identify as the conclusion?
3. Read through the entire book of 2 Thessalonians, in one sitting.
 - ❖ What are your first impressions after reading the whole epistle?
 - ❖ Does this letter appear to be intimately related to 1st Thessalonian epistle?
 - ❖ Do you observe any overall likenesses or differences when comparing the two Thessalonian epistles?
 - ❖ How does the epistle begin and end?
Compare this with the first letter.