



# 1 THESSALONIANS

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standing fast

## STANDING FAST

# THEMATIC OVERVIEW

Thessalonica was a port city on the Aegean Sea in the Greek region of Macedonia. At the time of Paul's writing in the first century, Thessalonica was under the rule of the Roman Empire. Macedonians had a rich historical pedigree as Alexander the Great hailed from Macedonia. The city was a religious melting pot. It was a strong cultural norm for people in the city, especially those in power, to worship emperors and be active members of the Roman imperial cult. Religious pluralism was also accepted, but claims of religious exclusivity were not.

Paul planted the church at Thessalonica with a core team of ministry partners as we see in Acts 16 and 17. His custom in church planting was to find local God-fearers and share the gospel of Jesus with them. He would also start a local business so as to not burden the church early in his ministry. Suddenly, Paul was driven from the region when a mob formed against the church. Nonetheless, the Thessalonian church produced disciples who had a regional impact. Some of the disciples of Thessalonica even traveled with Paul such as Aristarchus (Acts 27:2), and as Paul says in 1 Thess. 1:8, their faith has gone forth everywhere.

The letter of 1 Thessalonians is a letter of thanksgiving and encouragement amid suffering. After fleeing the region, Paul sent Timothy to visit the Thessalonian church in fear that their faith was struggling due to persecution. Timothy reported back the good news to Paul in Corinth that the church was flourishing in the face of hardship, yet they still had questions surrounding Paul's abrupt departure and the return of Jesus. Paul writes to the church of Thessalonica to encourage them to endure, bring clarity to confusion, and challenge them to a life that is consistent with Jesus's teachings.

Faithful gospel presence and preaching of the one true God often conflicts with civil authorities and the overarching beliefs of our society today (Acts 17:5-9). The Thessalonian church hoped in Jesus despite their persecution. Allegiance to Jesus came at the cost of isolation and hostility, but the overwhelming love of Jesus who died for them and the hope of His return made it all worth it. The early Christians developed a reputation for turning the world upside down and acting against the decrees of self-declared gods in power, holding firm to faithfulness in Christ through their beliefs and actions. Might we be strong and courageous to do the same, standing fast in our faith and abounding in love for one another and for all (1 Thess. 3:12).

In the face of trials and tribulations, it can be difficult to persevere and even tempting to quit. This temptation is familiar to every human, but particularly felt by Christians as they suffer for the sake of gospel. Paul's writings offer hope to a church who stands firm against persecution while wrestling with feelings of abandonment and questions of when Christ will return. Paul encourages the church to hope in Christ who has overcome the world, strive to live holy lives of love, and continuously grow in godliness by the power of the Holy Spirit. This same hope is available to us. "He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it" (1 Thess. 5:24).

## WEEK 1

# The Church of the Thessalonians

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1

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**WEEK 1 | THE CHURCH OF THE THESSALONIANS —**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 1:1**

4. What are you most interested in learning more about as we walk through 1 Thessalonians?

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week's passage and sermon?

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**WEEK 2**

**Loved by God**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-10**

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## WEEK 2 | LOVED BY GOD — 1 THESSALONIANS 1:2-10

4. How have you leaned on the Holy Spirit to help you turn from idolatry to serve the living and true God?

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week's passage and sermon?

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## WEEK 3

# Sharing the Gospel of God

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

## SERMON NOTES

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## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did you personally find challenging or comforting from this week's sermon?

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2. How have you found encouragement from others who have proclaimed the gospel or walked in faith in the midst of trials or persecution?

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3. In what way does sharing the gospel please God? Is sharing the gospel a regular practice in your life? If not, how might you ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in this practice?

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**WEEK 3 | SHARING THE GOSPEL OF GOD —**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12**

4. When you consider your life, what would it look like to “walk in a manner worthy of God?”

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week’s passage and sermon?

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**WEEK 4**

**Word of God**

**1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-16**

## SERMON NOTES

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## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did you personally find challenging or comforting from this week's sermon?  

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2. What is the difference in receiving the word of men as opposed to the word of God (v13)?  

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3. Like the church of Judea, the Thessalonians received backlash for turning away from an idolatrous and pagan religion popular to their region. What does it look like to be "imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea" today?  

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#### WEEK 4 | WORD OF GOD — 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-16

4. What led to God's wrath toward the Macedonians who persecuted the Thessalonian church? How does God's turning from the Jews relate to Gentiles (Acts 13:46)?

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week's passage and sermon?

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#### WEEK 5

### Standing Fast in the Lord

1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-3:10

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**WEEK 5 | STANDING FAST IN THE LORD —**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-3:10**

4. As you have endured distress and affliction, what testimonies from other Christians have you heard and found comforting?

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week's passage and sermon?

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**WEEK 6**

**Blameless Hearts**

**1 THESSALONIANS 3:11-13**

## SERMON NOTES

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## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did you personally find challenging or comforting from this week's sermon?

2. How does it bring you comfort that it is the Lord who causes us to increase in love?

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3. How can you call on the Holy Spirit to help you grow in love “for one another and for all?”

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**WEEK 6 | BLAMELESS HEARTS — 1 THESSALONIANS**

**3:11-13**

4. Does the return of Christ motivate you to walk in holiness before God? If so, how? If not, why?

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week's passage and sermon?

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**WEEK 7**

**Walking and Pleasing God**

**1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-2**

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**WEEK 7 | WALKING AND PLEASING GOD —**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-2**

4. Paul grounds his encouragement to please God in the Lord Jesus.  
How does the good news of God's redemption shape your obedience to him?

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week's passage and sermon?

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**WEEK 8**

**The Will of God**

**1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-8**

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1. What did you personally find challenging or comforting from this week's sermon?  

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2. As you pray for God to reveal his will for your life, consider that his will is for you to be sanctified. In what areas of your life can you see God sanctifying you?  

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3. How does walking in sexual purity serve as an important encouragement today?

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## WEEK 8 | THE WILL OF GOD — 1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-8

4. What ways do you feel tempted to disregard or convicted to obey this exhortation to walk in purity?

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week's passage and sermon?

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## WEEK 9

# Brotherly Love

1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12

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## WEEK 9 | BROTHERLY LOVE — 1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12

4. What could it look like for you to “mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands...so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one?” Why does this matter?

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week’s passage and sermon?

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## WEEK 10

### With the Lord

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

## SERMON NOTES

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did you personally find challenging or comforting from this week's sermon?

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2. How have you seen those with no hope grieve? How are you tempted to grieve without hope?

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3. What comfort do you derive from the reality of the resurrection of those in Christ?

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**WEEK 10 | WITH THE LORD — 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**

4. How does being with the Lord encourage you? What would it look like to encourage other Christians with this reality?

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week's passage and sermon?

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**WEEK 11**

**Day of the Lord**

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**

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**WEEK 11 | DAY OF THE LORD — 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11**

4. How can you encourage someone regarding the return of Christ this week?

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week's passage and sermon?

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**WEEK 12**

**Living Out the Gospel**

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-22**

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**WEEK 12 | LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL — 1 THESSALONIANS**  
**5:12-22**

4. In your life, where can you ask the Holy Spirit to help you “abstain from every form of evil?”

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week’s passage and sermon?

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**WEEK 13**  
**He is Faithful**  
**1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-28**

## SERMON NOTES

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## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did you personally find challenging or comforting from this week's sermon?

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2. Why does our sanctification being grounded in God's faithfulness matter?

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3. How are you praying for God to sanctify you?

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**WEEK 13 | HE IS FAITHFUL — 1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-28**

4. Where in your life do you need to accept the grace of Jesus?

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5. How might God be inviting you to live differently in response to this week's passage and sermon?

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*And we urge you,  
brothers, admonish  
the idle, encourage the  
fainthearted, help the  
weak, be patient with  
them all. See that no one  
repays anyone evil for  
evil, but always seek to  
do good to one another  
and to everyone. Rejoice  
always, pray without  
ceasing, give thanks in  
all circumstances; for  
this is the will of God in  
Christ Jesus for you. Do  
not quench the Spirit. Do  
not despise prophecies,  
but test everything;  
hold fast what is good.  
Abstain from every form  
of evil.*

**1 THESSALONIANS 5:14-21**





A study of The Well Church  
BOULDER • COLORADO