

## 1 Thessalonians: Faith, Hope and Love

Psalm 42:1-5 ❖ 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

“The infant church of Thessalonica wanted Jesus to come back soon and whisk them off to the eternal delights of heaven. It’s not hard to understand why. It must have seemed they stood alone in trying to live holy lives in a sprawling port city that teemed with immorality, greed and deception.

For Thessalonians and all Christians who feel out of sync in their world, Paul’s encouragement is not to focus on the return of Jesus but to live honorable lives and draw people to Jesus as a lighthouse draws to safety one lost ship after another.”  
 (“How To Get Into the Bible, Stephen Miller, p. 379)

### Paul’s First Letter

*Who:* The \_\_\_\_\_ Paul wrote this epistle

*What:* to encourage \_\_\_\_ Christians in a \_\_\_\_ church he had started

*Where:* in the ancient \_\_\_\_\_ city of Thessalonica, \_\_\_\_\_

*When:* in \_\_\_\_ A. D.

*Why:* to not merely \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus’ return but to live \_\_\_\_\_

### A Common Preoccupation

As American Christians find ourselves in a culture that is increasingly \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to our faith, haven’t we sometimes longed for Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ and take us to \_\_\_\_\_?

How much \_\_\_\_\_ was that the case for the Christians in Thessalonica. Acts 17 notes that, after spending \_\_\_\_\_ weeks there, Paul and Silas were driven out by the Jewish leaders. Two months later, Paul sent his \_\_\_\_\_ pastor Timothy back to check on them. He reported back that they were being \_\_\_\_\_ but were thriving and that they had questions about the second coming of \_\_\_\_\_.

In every \_\_\_\_\_ in 1 Thessalonians, Paul said three things:

- 1) Yes, Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ back.
- 2) Look \_\_\_\_\_ to His return, but don’t \_\_\_\_\_ about it.
- 3) In the meantime, continue to be \_\_\_\_\_ to all believers.

### The Triad of Belief

Paul regularly wrote about the triad of “f\_\_\_\_\_, h\_\_\_\_ and l\_\_\_\_\_.” His best known reference is 1 Corinthians 13:13.

He began 1 Thessalonians with his well-known \_\_\_\_\_: “We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We \_\_\_\_\_ remember before our God and Father:

- 1) “Your work produced by \_\_\_\_\_,” (v. 3a)
- 2) “your labor prompted by \_\_\_\_\_” (v. 3b)
- 3) “and your endurance inspired by \_\_\_\_\_ in our Lord Jesus Christ” (v. 3c).

### The Triad of Life

Paul said the believers in Thessalonica exemplified \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ live the Christian life:

- 1) “They turned to \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_” (v. 9b)
- 2) “to \_\_\_\_\_ the living and true God” (v. 9c)
- 3) “and to \_\_\_\_\_ for His Son from \_\_\_\_\_” (v. 10a)

### Takeaway

Like the Christians in ancient Thessalonica, Christians today in \_\_\_\_\_ feel out of sync with the \_\_\_\_\_. And because “our hope is in \_\_\_\_\_” (Psalm 42:5), we are supposed to feel that way!

Everywhere Paul traveled in Greece, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church in Thessalonica preceded him. They had “become a \_\_\_\_\_ to all the other churches” (v. 7).

May God continue to make HHPC a \_\_\_\_\_ of:

- 1) F\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) H\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) L\_\_\_\_\_

