

# Introduction to 1 Thessalonians

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

### Introduction

#### I The Background

- A. The date: Approximately \_\_\_ A.D. - Acts 17
- B. The occasion and purpose:
  - 1. To defend Paul's ministry, their conversion (1:1-3:2)
  - 2. To \_\_\_\_\_ the new converts in their trials (3:3-13)
  - 3. To give instruction concerning godly living (4:1-12)
  - 4. To give \_\_\_\_\_ regarding Christ's return (4:13-5:28)
- C. The overall theme and key verse:
  - 1. Overall theme: "The Lord's \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 2. Key verse: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

#### II The Author

- A. The human authors:
  - 1. Paul = **Saul** (Hebrew) **Paul** (Latin)
    - a. His pre-conversion life:
      - 1. He was a Roman citizen/ \_\_\_\_\_ Jew - Acts 22:3
      - 2. He was a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin
      - 3. He was a \_\_\_\_\_ of saints - Acts 8:3; 9:1-2
    - b. His post-conversion life: - Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-29
      - 1. He was a \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ - Eph 3:7-11
      - 2. He was an apostle/church planter - 1 Tim 2:7
      - 3. He was author of at least \_\_\_ NT books
  - 2. Silas = **Silas** (Aramaic) **Silvanus** (Latin)
  - 3. Timothy = "Dear to God"
- B. The divine author: God
  - 1. It is God- \_\_\_\_\_ - 2 Tim 3:16-17
  - 2. It is Jesus Christ-embodied - Jn 1:1
  - 3. It is Spirit- \_\_\_\_\_ - 2 Pet 1:20-21

#### III The Recipients

- A. The primary recipients: The Thessalonian church
  - 1. Their \_\_\_\_\_ position
    - a. The city of Thessalonica

- b. The church of Thessalonica
    - 2. Their \_\_\_\_\_ position
      - a. In God the Father
      - b. In the Lord Jesus Christ - Gen 7:16; Eph 1:13-14
  - B. The secondary recipients: The " \_\_\_\_\_ " church

#### IV The Greeting

- A. The opening salutation:
  - 1. **Grace** = "God's divine \_\_\_\_\_ in spite of demerit"
  - 2. **Peace** = "Man's \_\_\_\_\_ from enmity with God"
- B. The opening exhortation:
  - 1. They always giving \_\_\_\_\_ for them - 2 Tim 1:3
  - 2. They made mention on them in their prayers
  - 3. They continually remembered before God:
    - a. Their \_\_\_\_\_ produced by faith - 2 Thess 1:11
    - b. Their labor prompted by \_\_\_\_\_ - Jn 14:21; 21:16
    - c. Their \_\_\_\_\_ inspired by hope - Heb 12:1

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Who is the greatest source of encouragement in your life?
2. The apostle Paul included Silas and Timothy in the introduction of his letter. What impact do you think that may have had on his disciples? Why did he do it? What can you learn from it?
3. Explain in your own words the meaning of *Grace* and *Peace* and how the two are interrelated in the Christian life.
4. In Thess 1:2-3 Paul's thoughts of the Thessalonians prompted 3 activities in his life. What were they? Are these activities a normal part of your life/relationships? Why or why not?
5. What can you do this week to evidence a life that is marked by 1) Work produced by faith, 2) Labor prompted by love and 3) Endurance inspired by hope?
6. Take a moment to thank God for the supernatural peace that you have as a result of His grace poured out in Jesus Christ.

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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