

1 Nov 2020 **1 Thess 2:17–4:12**

**Who** wrote 1 Thessalonians?

Paul, Silvanus (Silas), & Timothy

**What** is its theme?

Holiness, Love, & Hope (Faith)

**When** was it written?

During Paul’s 2nd Missionary Journey after he was forced to leave Thessalonica and then Berea, c AD 49-51

**Where** is Thessalonica?

NW side of the Aegean Sea in Macedonia

(Modern day Greece SW of Bulgaria)

**Why** was it written?

Paul was worried for the Thessalonians after his abrupt departure so he sent Timothy for a report and this is his reply.



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| **Paul’s Longing to See Them Again**  **17**But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, **18**because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. **19**For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? **20**For you are our glory and joy.  **3**Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, **2**and we sent Timothy, our brother and God’s coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, **3**that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. **4**For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. **5**For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain. | v17: see Acts 17:1–15  v3: e.g. see John 16:33 |
| **Timothy’s Encouraging Report**  **6**But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you— **7**for this reason, brothers, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. **8**For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord. **9**For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, **10**as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?  ***11****Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you,* ***12****and may the Lord make you increase and abound in* ***love*** *for one another and for all, as we do for you,* ***13****so that he may establish your hearts blameless in* ***holiness*** *before our God and Father, at* ***the coming of our Lord Jesus*** *with all his saints.* | Paul would see the Thessalonians at least 2 more times (Acts 20:1–6)  v11-13: Compare with 1 Th 1:3 |
| **A Life Pleasing to God**  **4**Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. **2**For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. **3**For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; **4**that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, **5**not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; **6**that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. **7**For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. **8**Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. | **Chapters 1-3 generically focused on Justification.**  **Chapters 4-5 will generically focus on Sanctification.** |
| **9**Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, **10**for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, **11**and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, **12**so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one. |  |