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(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺

[lokpeter@outlook.com](mailto:lokpeter@outlook.com)

# 1 Thessalonians

The Book of 1 Thessalonians is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the Christian church in Thessalonica, a city in modern-day Greece, around AD 50 or 51. It is one of the earliest Christian writings in the New Testament and provides insight into the beliefs and practices of the early Christian church.

The letter begins with a greeting from Paul, Silas, and Timothy to the Thessalonians, expressing their gratitude for the faith and perseverance of the Thessalonian Christians. Paul then reminds the Thessalonians of the circumstances under which he first preached the gospel to them and commends them for their faithfulness despite persecution.

In the following chapters, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to continue living in a way that pleases God, to avoid sexual immorality, to love one another, and to work hard. He also addresses questions the Thessalonians had about the second coming of Christ, reassuring them that those who have died in Christ will rise again and those who are still alive will be caught up in the air with Christ.

The letter concludes with a series of exhortations and blessings, including a call to pray continually, to be joyful always, and to give thanks in all circumstances. Paul also urges the Thessalonians to hold on to what is good and avoid evil, and he sends greetings from himself and his companions.

Overall, the Book of 1 Thessalonians emphasizes the importance of faithfulness, perseverance, and love in the Christian life, as well as the hope and assurance believers have in the return of Christ.

Here is a brief description of each chapter in the Book of 1 Thessalonians:

Chapter 1: Paul commends the Thessalonians for their faith, love, and hope in Christ, and reminds them of how they first received the gospel.

Chapter 2: Paul defends his ministry and reminds the Thessalonians of how he worked among them with integrity and love.

Chapter 3: Paul expresses his concern for the Thessalonians and sends Timothy to check on them. Timothy returns with good news about their faithfulness.

Chapter 4: Paul instructs the Thessalonians to live in a way that pleases God, including avoiding sexual immorality and loving one another. He also addresses their questions about the second coming of Christ.

Chapter 5: Paul urges the Thessalonians to be alert and prepared for the day of the Lord's return, and to encourage one another in faith. He also gives various exhortations and blessings.

Overall, the Book of 1 Thessalonians is a short but powerful letter that emphasizes the importance of faithfulness, love, and hope in the Christian life, as well as the assurance believers have in the return of Christ.

Chapter 1 of 1 Thessalonians opens with an expression of gratitude and praise from the apostle Paul and his companions Silas and Timothy to God for the faith and love of the Thessalonian believers. Paul commends the Thessalonians for their faithful witness of Christ and for being a model of faith to other believers in Macedonia and Achaia. Paul recalls how he and his companions came to Thessalonica and preached the gospel despite opposition and suffering. Nevertheless, the Thessalonians received the message with joy and the Holy Spirit, and turned from idols to serve the true and living God. Paul notes how the faith of the Thessalonians has spread throughout the region, and how others are now imitating their example of faith.

The chapter ends with Paul expressing his desire to return to Thessalonica and to strengthen and encourage the believers there in their faith. He also notes how the Thessalonians are waiting for the return of Jesus from heaven, and how this hope sustains and motivates them in their Christian walk.

Overall, chapter 1 of 1 Thessalonians sets the tone for the rest of the letter by highlighting the faith, love, and hope of the Thessalonian believers, and by expressing Paul's desire to continue to build them up in their faith.

Here are some important verses from chapter 1 of 1 Thessalonians, along with a brief explanation and where to find them in the chapter:

1 Thessalonians 1:3 - "We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." This verse highlights the three important Christian virtues of faith, love, and hope, and how these were evident in the Thessalonian believers.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 - "You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit." This verse speaks to the Thessalonians' response to the gospel message, and how they received it with joy despite facing severe persecution and suffering.

1 Thessalonians 1:9 - "for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." This verse emphasizes the radical transformation that occurred in the lives of the Thessalonians when they turned away from idols and turned to God in faith.

These verses can be found in 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 1:6, and 1:9, respectively. They highlight the key themes of faith, love, and hope, the Thessalonians' joyful reception of the gospel despite suffering, and their radical transformation through faith in Christ.

Chapter 2 of 1 Thessalonians begins with Paul recounting how he and his companions had previously come to Thessalonica to preach the gospel, and how they had faced opposition and persecution from both Jews and Gentiles. Despite this, Paul declares that they were bold in their proclamation of the gospel, and that they spoke not to please men, but to please God who tests the heart.

Paul then reflects on his interactions with the Thessalonians, noting how he had treated them with gentleness, love, and concern, and had worked hard among them day and night to support himself and his companions so as not to be a burden on the new believers. Paul also emphasizes how he had not come to Thessalonica seeking personal gain, but had preached the gospel out of a genuine desire to see people saved and to please God.

Paul reminds the Thessalonians how they had received the gospel not as the word of men, but as the word of God, which had effectively worked in them to bring about salvation. He also notes how they had imitated the churches in Judea in their faithfulness, despite facing similar persecution and opposition from their own countrymen.

The chapter ends with Paul expressing his love and concern for the Thessalonians, and his desire to see them again. He notes how Satan had hindered his attempts to return to Thessalonica, and how he longed to see the Thessalonians face to face in order to continue to build them up in their faith.

Overall, chapter 2 of 1 Thessalonians emphasizes the sincerity and selflessness of Paul's ministry to the Thessalonians, and underscores the importance of receiving the gospel as the word of God, rather than the word of men. The chapter also highlights the challenges of proclaiming the gospel in the face of opposition and persecution, and underscores the need for perseverance and faithfulness in the midst of such trials.

Here are some important verses from chapter 2 of 1 Thessalonians, along with a brief explanation and where to find them in the chapter:

1 Thessalonians 2:4 - "On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts." This verse highlights Paul's motivation for sharing the gospel with the Thessalonians, which was not to win human approval but rather to please God and be faithful to His calling.

1 Thessalonians 2:8 - "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us." This verse emphasizes the deep love and affection that Paul and his companions had for the Thessalonians, and how they were willing to share not just the message of the gospel but their very lives with them.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 - "And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe." This verse emphasizes the Thessalonians' response to the gospel message, which they received not as mere human words but as the very word of God, and which had a transformative effect on their lives.

These verses can be found in 1 Thessalonians 2:4, 2:8, and 2:13, respectively. They highlight the themes of faithful obedience to God's calling, deep love and affection for the Thessalonians, and the transformative power of the gospel message.

Chapter 3 of 1 Thessalonians begins with Paul expressing his concern for the Thessalonian believers, who had been left behind in Thessalonica when Paul and his companions were forced to leave due to persecution. Paul notes how he had sent Timothy to Thessalonica to strengthen and encourage the believers in their faith, and to report back to Paul on their condition.

Paul then reports on Timothy's return, expressing his joy and relief at the news that the Thessalonians were continuing to stand firm in their faith, despite facing persecution and opposition. Paul notes how Timothy had reported on the Thessalonians' love for Paul and his companions, and how they longed to see them again. Paul also notes how the Thessalonians had been encouraged by Timothy's visit and report.

The chapter ends with Paul offering a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the faith and perseverance of the Thessalonians. He also expresses his desire to visit them again, and to continue to build them up in their faith.

Overall, chapter 3 of 1 Thessalonians emphasizes the importance of mutual encouragement and support among believers in the face of persecution and opposition. The chapter also highlights the role of leaders like Timothy in strengthening and encouraging believers in their faith, and underscores the importance of prayer and thanksgiving in the life of the Christian community.

Here are some important verses from chapter 3 of 1 Thessalonians, along with a brief explanation and where to find them in the chapter:

1 Thessalonians 3:2-3 - "We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them." This passage describes how Paul sent Timothy to the Thessalonians in order to strengthen their faith and encourage them in the face of persecution and trials.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 - "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones." This passage is a prayer from Paul for the Thessalonians, asking God to increase their love and strengthen their hearts so that they may be blameless and holy when Jesus returns.

1 Thessalonians 3:16 - "May the Lord himself, the Lord of peace, give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you." This verse is another prayer from Paul, asking that God would give the Thessalonians peace in all circumstances, and reminding them that the Lord is always with them.

These verses can be found in 1 Thessalonians 3:2-3, 3:12-13, and 3:16, respectively. They highlight the importance of strengthening one's faith in the midst of trials, the need for love and holiness, and the source of true peace in the Lord.

Chapter 4 of 1 Thessalonians begins with Paul exhorting the Thessalonians to live in a way that pleases God, avoiding sexual immorality and living holy and honorable lives.

Paul emphasizes that this is God's will for them, and that they should strive to grow in holiness and purity.

Paul then addresses the topic of the resurrection of the dead, and how this relates to the Christian hope. He notes that believers who have died will be raised to life again when Christ returns, and that those who are still alive will be caught up with them in the air to meet the Lord. Paul emphasizes that this is a source of great comfort and hope for believers, and urges the Thessalonians to encourage one another with these words.

Paul then encourages the Thessalonians to continue to live in love and unity, and to work hard to support themselves and avoid being a burden on others. He notes that this will give them a good witness to those outside the church, and will also promote unity and harmony within the community of believers.

The chapter ends with Paul reminding the Thessalonians that they are children of light, not of darkness, and that they should live in a way that reflects this reality. He urges them to encourage one another and build one another up in their faith, and to live in anticipation of the return of Christ.

Overall, chapter 4 of 1 Thessalonians emphasizes the importance of holy living, sexual purity, and the hope of the resurrection for the Christian community. The chapter also underscores the importance of unity and love among believers, and the need to avoid being a burden on others. The chapter ends with a call to live in light of the reality of Christ's return and to encourage one another in faith.

Here are some important verses from chapter 4 of 1 Thessalonians, along with a brief explanation and where to find them in the chapter:

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 - "It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God." This passage emphasizes the importance of sexual purity and self-control, as well as the idea that sanctification (being set apart for God's purposes) is God's will for believers.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 - "Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." This passage addresses the question of what happens to believers who have died before Jesus returns. Paul assures the Thessalonians that those who have died in Christ will be brought with Jesus when he returns.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever." This passage describes the second coming of Christ, and the idea that believers who have died will be resurrected and joined with living believers to meet the Lord in the air.

These verses can be found in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, 4:13-14, and 4:16-17, respectively. They touch on important topics such as sexual purity and self-control, the fate of believers who have died, and the hope and promise of Christ's return.

Notes:

There are several difficult questions in 1 Thessalonians that scholars and theologians continue to debate and discuss. Some of these questions include:

1. What is the exact nature of the "day of the Lord" mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:2? Is it a reference to the second coming of Christ or a more immediate judgment on the people of Thessalonica?
2. What does Paul mean in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 when he speaks about the "rapture" or the "catching away" of believers? Is this a literal event or a metaphorical description of Christ's return?
3. What is the identity of the "man of lawlessness" mentioned in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12? Is this a reference to a specific historical figure or a symbolic representation of evil in general?

Despite years of study and debate, there is no consensus on these questions among scholars and theologians.