

Introduction to 1Thessalonians

Date: AD 51 from Corinth

Theme: God-ward living in anticipation of Christ's return.

Key Passages:

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you; 13 so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Outline:

I. Encouragements and Reminders (1-3)

- 1 Greetings (1:1)
- 2 The Blessing of God's Election (1:2-10)
- 3 The Reminders of Ministry (2:1-16)
- 4 The Concerns for Growth (2:17-3:13)

II. Sanctification and Hope (4-5)

- 1 Sanctification in Life (4:1-12)
- 2 The Return of Christ (4:13-18)
- 3 The Day of the Lord (5:1-11)
- 4 Sanctification in Church (5:12-22)
- 5 Conclusion (5:23-28)

Purposes:

- 1 Encouragement for a healthy church (1-2)
- 2 Exhortations for holy and devout living (4-5)
- 3 Instructions on eschatology: 4-5
 - a. Dead in Christ at His return (4)
 - b. Day of the Lord (5)

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