

ACTS 17 – Thessalonica: The Hope of Christ’s Return

Faith, Love, Hope, and the Word in 1 Thessalonians

Acts 17

I. Traveling to Thessalonica (vv1-4)

17 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.” ⁴ And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.

II. Trouble in Thessalonica (vv5-9)

⁵ But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, ^[a] took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. ⁶ But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. ⁷ Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king—Jesus.” ⁸ And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things. ⁹ So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.

III. Turned Away from Thessalonica to Berea (vv10-13)

¹⁰ Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. ¹² Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men. ¹³ But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds.

IV. Thrown Out of Berea to set sail for Athens (vv14-21)

¹⁴ Then immediately the brethren sent Paul away, to go to the sea; but both Silas and Timothy remained there. ¹⁵ So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed.

¹⁶ Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. ¹⁷ Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

¹⁸ Then ^[b] certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, “What does this babblers want to say?”

Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.

¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak? ²⁰ For you are bringing some strange things to our ears.

Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” ²¹ For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.

V. Teaching at Mars Hill in Athens (vv22-34)

²² Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; ²³ for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: ²⁴ “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ²⁶ And He has made from one blood^[c] every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ ²⁹ Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising. ³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

³² And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, “We will hear you again on this *matter*.” ³³ So Paul departed from among them. ³⁴ However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

VI. Tarrying in Corinth for 1.5 Years (18:1-17)

¹⁸ After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. ³ So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus is the Christ*. ⁶ But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook *his* garments and said to them, “Your blood *be* upon your *own* heads; I *am* clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain *man* named Justus,^[d] *one* who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

⁹ Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.” ¹¹ And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

¹² When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, ¹³ saying, “This *fellow* persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.”

¹⁴ And when Paul was about to open *his* mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. ¹⁵ But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look *to it* yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such *matters*.” ¹⁶ And he drove them from the judgment seat. ¹⁷ Then all the Greeks^[e] took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat *him* before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things.

VII. Trip Home to Antioch (18:18-23)

¹⁸ So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila *were* with him. He had *his* hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. ¹⁹ And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked *him* to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, ²¹ but took leave of them, saying, “I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem;^[f] but I will return again to you, God willing.” And he sailed from Ephesus. ²² And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch. ²³ After he had spent some time *there*, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

VIII. Training of Apollos?

²⁴ Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. ²⁵ This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; ²⁸ for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Footnotes:

1. [Acts 17:5](#) NU-Text omits *who were not persuaded*; M-Text omits *becoming envious*.
2. [Acts 17:18](#) NU-Text and M-Text add *also*.
3. [Acts 17:26](#) NU-Text omits *blood*.
4. [Acts 18:7](#) NU-Text reads *Titius Justus*.
5. [Acts 18:17](#) NU-Text reads *they all*.
6. [Acts 18:21](#) NU-Text omits *I must* through *Jerusalem*.

INTRODUCTION:

LAST TIME: Followed Paul and Silas through Acts 16

Headed out on the 2nd Missionary Journey.

After Barnabas and Mark split to go to island of Cyprus

Paul and Silas leave home church of Antioch to Syria and Cilicia

Then on to Galatia to strengthen churches founded on 1st Missionary Journey

Including Derbe, Lystra, Iconium. Pick up young Timothy along the way.

Then, after strengthening the churches in Galatia

God sovereignly directed them NW to Macedonia—Gospel going to Europe!

Specifically, Paul and brethren led to Philippi.

There saw not only Sovereign Work of God by Spirit to Direct Gospel to Philippi

But also Sovereign Work of God by Spirit to Apply Gospel at Philippi

Philippi: Wealthy woman Lydia, demon-possessed slave girl and Gentile jailor

All given forgiveness and new life in Christ, through repentance and faith.

At end of Acts 16:

After Paul released and vindicated as Roman citizens [after much pain of mistreatment!]

Paul and Silas and Timothy depart from Philippi and continue

Along coast of Greece/Macedonia [Aegean Sea]

Until arrive at the most important city in Macedonia—Thessalonica!

And so our theme today will be the Thessalonians

As we will trace through Acts 17 in relation to the Thessalonians

And then highlight Paul's soon-to-be-written letter of "1 Thessalonians" to the church.

Rough, very rough, outline:

I. Background of Thessalonica (Acts 17)

1. Traveling to Thessalonica (vv1-4)
2. Trouble in Thessalonica (vv5-9)
3. Turned Away from Thessalonica to Berea (vv10-13)
4. Thrown Out of Berea to set sail for Athens (vv14-21)
5. Teaching at Mars Hill in Athens (vv22-34)
6. Tarrying in Corinth for 1.5 years (18:1-17)
7. Trip Home to Antioch (18:18-23)
8. Training of Apollos (18:24-28)??

II. Summary of 1 Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 1-5)

1. Faith, Love, Hope, Word
2. Tracing Hope of Christ's Return through whole book.

I. BACKGROUND OF THESSALONICA (ACTS 17)

1. TRAVELING to Thessalonica (vv1-4)

Custom – Synagogues. Why?

Jews there know Scripture and Tradition; Gentiles there seeking one true God.

Reasoned from the Scriptures

Lining up the evidence and events alongside Scripture to prove them

Note: remember this importance of the Word of God to the Thessalonians.

Christ HAD to suffer and be raised from the dead

Wages of sin is death,

--so had to suffer death and rise to conquer sin and death

But there is still death, though, isn't there

--and this necessitates Christ's return to completely remove sin and death

The Curse of Sin extends to all creation

--and this necessitates Christ's return to completely restore all things
as the universal King over all!

[We bring this up now because a major theme of Paul's letters to Thessalonica is the return of Christ and judgment.]

Results?

Some persuaded Jews

Multitudes of Greeks—Thessalonica was still largely a Greek city

Not a few prominent Women

--both men and women are equal, and, thus, equally sinful.

--both men and women desperately need Christ and are condemned.

--both men and women must come individually to Christ, and to join local church.

2. TROUBLE in Thessalonica (vv5-9)

Stir up trouble - should remind of Acts 13/14 and Antioch and Iconium.

“Jason”

Probably Jew “Joshua” who takes Greek version of name. Assumed housing Paul/friends

Caesar/King Jesus

Since largely a gentile population, Paul emphasizes Kingship of Christ

When Evangelize Jews, focus on Kingdom of God and Messiah

When Evangelize Gentiles, focus on true/living God vs. idols;

preparation for God's universal judgment by universal King.

Taken Security

Likely gave money as assurance the would keep friends' behavior under control

3. TURNED AWAY from Thessalonica to Berea (vv10-13)

Immediately - Likely more than 3 weeks, maybe btwn 1 to 6 months. *I think 1 or 2 months*

In 1 Thess, Paul says there long enough to receive gifts from Philippi, to work for pay

Sent Paul and Silas away - Was part of Jason's taking security? Or too dangerous to stay?

Bereans received word w/readiness, searched the Scriptures. - Thes's word-centered too!

Results - largely like at Thessalonica (Jews, Greeks, women)

Reminds of Lystra - Jews fr/other cities—then Antioch Pisidia & Iconium—came to run off.

Jews from Thessalonica came to stir up crowds

--shows the affliction and opposition the Thessalonians would be facing.

4. THROWN OUT of Berea to set sail for Athens (vv14-21)

Immediately

But just Paul sent away, as Silas and Timothy remained.

Paul, however, sent the command for them to come to him in Athens

In Athens, see example of what Paul may have taught Gentile Thessalonians

Vv17-18—to Gentile worshipers and philosophers

“He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods”,
because he preached Jesus and the resurrection.

Jesus as God?

Resurrection as foolishness to Greeks. How silly that decayed bodies raised!

But remember 1 Cor 1: Christ crucified offense to Jews, foolishness to Greeks.

5. TEACHING at Mars Hill in Athens (vv22-34)

In Mars Hill, example of what Paul emphasized to Gentile Thessalonians

Vv30-32—Commands all men everywhere to repent.

“Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness
by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all
by raising Him from the dead.”

“And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked,
while others said, ‘We will hear you again on this matter.’”

Emphasizes true and living God—only God—and universal judgment by Christ
with resurrection of the dead.

And this emphasis is important them in letters to Thessalonians.

6. TARRYING in Corinth for 1.5 years (18:1-17)

V1) Paul departs fr/Athens for Corinth

V5) Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia (Corinth in Achaia—south)

Think of Paul at this Point

1) Weary and Dejected

Run out of Thessalonica, far too soon!

Run out of Berea, all the way to Athens

High hopes for Athens! But very little fruit.

Now farther away from young abandoned/afflicted Thessalonian church

2) When in Athens, Paul sent Timothy to Thessalonica to strengthen them

See this in 1 Thessalonians, and Timothy returned with report—doing well!

So now Paul, with joy and relief, writes from Corinth, 1 Thess (~AD50/51)

1 Thess is one of most intimate, personal letters,

Like a parent, with great concern for child, writes letter once find that child

3) And so now we move to our summary of 1 Thessalonians.....

II. SUMMARY OF 1 THESSALONIANS

1. CHAPTER 1: Faith, Love, Hope, Word

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

²We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³remembering without ceasing your work of **faith**, labor of **love**, and patience of **hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. ⁵For our gospel did not come to you in **word** only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

⁶And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the **word** in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. ⁸For from you the **word** of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. ⁹For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*

Vv2-5 set stage and theme and outline for rest of letter

1. Faith (ch1-3)
2. Love (ch3:11-13; but also throughout the letter)
3. Hope (ch4-5; but also throughout the letter)
4. Word of God is source (1:5-9; 2:13)

Vv5-8 has focus on Word of God

V5) Saved by the Word: Word empowered by Spirit saved them.

Remember the centrality of Scriptures in conversion in Acts 17?

What you win them with is what you win them to!

Vv6-7) Sanctified by Word: Received Word in affliction and became examples!

All way from Macedonian to Achaia (north to south), all way to Corinth.

V8) Sounded out the Word:

See their faith and love displayed! **Look at 2:13:**

¹³For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the **word** of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it not* as the **word** of men, but as it is in truth, the **word** of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

Vv9-10 Helps define the “Hope” part of triad

Turned to God fr/idols, true and living God. This is a Gentile church! Far removed fr/Jerusalem.

V10) Wait for Christ to return, deliver from wrath to come—judgment.

Hope: in 1:3 and 1:10, we see this afflicted, abandoned Gentile church exhorted to place

Hope in *Return of our blessed hope of the appearing of our great God and Savior Christ.*

We will follow this exhortation of hope through the remaining four chapters of letter....

2. CHAPTER 2: Hope in You in Christ's Coming

2 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. ³ For our exhortation *did* not *come* from error or uncleanness, nor *was it* in deceit.

⁴ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. ⁵ For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God *is* witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. ⁷ **But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children.** ⁸ **So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.** ⁹ For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

¹⁰ You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; ¹¹ **as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a *father* does his own children,** ¹² **that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.**

¹³ **For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.** ¹⁴ For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they *did* from the Judeans, ¹⁵ who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, ¹⁶ forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up *the measure* of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

¹⁷ But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. ¹⁸ Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. ¹⁹ **For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?** ²⁰ **For you are our glory and joy.**

First part of chapter: Paul defends himself against those who challenge his authority

Paul tenderly defines his relationship with them like a Mother loving and cherishing (v7)
And like a Father exhorting and comforting (v11)

Ends chapter with Hope of Return of Christ (vv19-20)

Coming = Parousia: presence or arrival, yes, but with idea of “royal visit of a king”

Hope is not merely the Return of Christ alone, but also Return of Saints with Him!

2:19—“what is our hope...you in the presence of our Lord...at His coming”

Rom 8:19—“creation eagerly awaits for the revealing of the sons of God.”

Christ is glorified in His people glorified with Him!

3. CHAPTER 3: Hope in Established at Christ's Coming with all His Saints

3 Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, ² and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, ³ that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. ⁴ For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

⁶ But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you—

⁷ therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.

⁸ For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

First part of chapter: Paul describe his longing for Thess's, Timothy's good report.

Ends chapter with Pray and then Hope of Return of Christ (vv11-13)

Though love already, Paul, as apt to do, prays for even more love! (vv11-12)

Hope is preparing for coming of Christ with all His saints! (v13)

All saints? How? Some have/will have died—what about those already dead?....

4. CHAPTER 4: Hope in Comfort in Christ's Coming with all His Saints

4 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ² for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

⁹ But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; ¹¹ that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, ¹² that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

First part of chapter: Warning/exhortation concerning Sexual immorality in pagan world

Second part: Instruction on orderly life in love (vv9-12)

Detailed Description of Hope of Return of Christ (vv13-18)

(13) Appears that they feared for those already dead—would they share in hope of Coming?

(14) "Even So": We will be raised just as Christ was raised.

Jesus is both our Promise and our Example: because He rose and as He rose.

(16) Mimics Acts 1:11—Christ will return in same manner as He ascended: bodily/visibly

But will also return unmistakably—shout, voice of archangel, trumpet, dead raised!

Christ's return: unmistakable, physical, bodily, corporate, one-time final event.

Resurrection of Believers—made like Christ's glorified body (1 Jn 3; Phil 3)

(17) "Meet": can mean "to meet in order to escort back"

Which implies we meet Lord in air to "escort" Him in all glory to earth.

And thus we shall always be with Him.

(18) Comfort one another with these words.

***How can we not be comforted: Glorified with Him and Glorifying Him
As sons of God revealed with Him.***

5. CHAPTER 5: Hope in Comfort in Christ's Coming with all His Saints

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ²For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³**For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.** ⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶**Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.** ⁷**For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.** ⁸**But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.** ⁹**For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,** ¹⁰**who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.**

¹¹**Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.**

¹²And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

¹⁴Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies. ²¹Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³**Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.** ²⁴**He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.**

²⁵Brethren, pray for us.

²⁶Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

²⁷I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

But there is judgment for the lost (v3)

Sudden destruction, shall be no escape, for those outside of Christ. Beware and Be ready.

Read final exhortation of Hope in vv23-24

Next Time: connect this with 2 Thessalonians, which written in same year, not long after....

CLOSING:

1) CHURCH of Christ—be like the Thessalonians

1. Love, 2. Faith, 3. Hope, 4. Word.

Hope of Christ's return and our joining with Him should be comfort.

2) OUTSIDE Christ?

1. Christ HAS come once in the flesh, humbly

To remove sin; To provide life.

2. But Christ IS coming again, in the flesh, but in glory, and as Judge.

All men everywhere are called to repent and place faith in Christ

--else judgment is sure.

The One who bore wrath for His people is coming in wrath against sin and sinners.