

1 Thess Class Schedule

date	passage	title
1/24/2021	1 Thess Overview	
1/31/2021	1 Thess 1:1-4	Greetings - Faith, Hope and Love
2/7/2021	1 Thess 1:5-7	Gospel came in power and in the Holy Spirit
2/14/2021	1 Thess 1:8-10	The Word of the Lord has sounded forth
2/21/2021	1 Thess 2:1-4	The message of the gospel was not in vain
2/28/2021	1 Thess 2:5-8	The message of the gospel was pure
3/7/2021	1 Thess 2:9-12	Paul's demeanor recalled and reviewed
3/14/2021	1 Thess 2:13-16	The Word of God welcomed & suffering endured
3/21/2021	1 Thess 2:17-20	The absence of Paul and joy for new believers
3/28/2021	1 Thess 3:1-5	The burden of Paul for new believers



THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL
 ACTS 15:36-18:32

- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Via Egnatia
- () Pass
- ← Route of Paul and Silas

0 100 200 300 Miles
 0 100 200 300 Kilometers



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Philippi

Neapolis
(Kavala)

Amphipolis
(Amfipolis)

Paul's route to Thessalonica
after a stopover in Philippi

Apollonia

Thessalonica
(Thessaloniki)



Philippi to Thessalonica: 90 Miles (145 Km)

Aegean Sea



Background *

- Thessalonica was a major city in Greece.
- Thessalonica was an ancient town named Therma, meaning "Hot Springs."
- Cassander, the Macedonian king, founded the more modern city in 315 B.C. and named it for his wife, who was a half-sister of Alexander the Great.
- It was the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia and it was strategically located on the Ignatian way, which was the main road between Rome and the eastern provinces of the empire.
- It was a self-governing community with enough Jews in residence to warrant a synagogue. (Acts 17:1).
- Thessalonica is one of the few cities of the first century that has maintained continuity to our day. * McCalley/Constable

Paul ministry in Thessalonica *

- Paul first visited Thessalonica during his second missionary journey with Silas and Timothy.
- They had just left prison in Philippi and made their way southward to Thessalonica (Acts 17:1).
- For at least three Sabbath days Paul reasoned in the synagogue with those present, and many believed the gospel (Acts 17:2). Also see 1 Thess. 2:9; cf. Phil. 4:15-16.
- Those who responded to the message of Christ's sufferings and resurrection (Acts 17:3,7) were Jews (Acts 17:4) and God-fearing proselytes to Judaism.
- There were also some leading women of the city and many idol worshipping pagans (Acts 17:4-5).

* Constable

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE THESSALONIAN LETTERS *

- But what makes the Thessalonian letters so important is the incredible mix of doctrine, prophecy, and issues about persecution.
- And the effect of the gospel on the Jews and the Hellenistic and Roman worlds.
- In the letters Paul mentions that he himself was suffering for the sake of Christ. But so were the Thessalonians.
- Yet through it all, he gives strong words of encouragement, discipline, and spiritual insights.
- The Thessalonian letters are also important because they illustrate how the Christians should respond while living in a hostile spiritual environment.

* Vern's notes

1. **TURNING TO GOD FROM IDOLS** or *“Serving a Living and True God”* * I Thess 1:1-10 – part 1

A. Paul’s Greetings 1:1

B. Paul’s Thanksgiving 1:2-4

C. Paul’s Confidence 1:5-10

1. **How God’s Word Came to Them 1:5**

^{5a} for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction

2. **How God’s Word Was Received by Them 1:6**

⁶ You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

* McCalley

1. **TURNING TO GOD FROM IDOLS** or *“Serving a Living and True God”* | Thess 1:1-10 - part 2

C. Paul’s Confidence 1:5-10

3. **How God’s Word Was Handled by Them 1:7-8**

⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

4. **The Way God’s Word Had Affected Them 1:9-10**

⁹ For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God.

2. THE GOSPEL PREACHED AT THESSALONICA *or* *“Messengers of Truth”* | Thess 2:1-16 – part 1

A. Focus on the Preacher 2:1-12

1. Paul’s Persistence 2:1-2

2. Paul’s Message 2:3-6

a. Paul’s Message Was Truth 2:3

³ For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit;

b. Paul’s Message Was a Trust 2:4

⁴ but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

c. Paul’s Message Was Pure 2:5

⁵ For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness—

2. THE GOSPEL PREACHED AT THESSALONICA or “Messengers of Truth” I

Thess 2:1-16 - part 2

A. Focus on the Preacher 2:1-12

2. Paul’s Message 2:3-6 (cont.)

d. Paul’s Message Was Unencumbered 2:6

⁶ nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority

3. Paul’s Demeanor 2:7-12

B. Focus on the Hearers 2:13-16

1. The Word Welcomed 2:13

¹³ For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

2. The Persecution Ensues 2:14-16

3. PAUL AND NEW BELIEVERS or *“Paul’s Joy, Hope, and Crown”* | Thess 2:17-3:5

A. The Absence of Paul from the New Believers 2:17-18

B. The Affection of Paul for the New Believers 2:19-20

¹⁹ For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

C./D. The Burden and Plan of Paul for the New Believers 3:1-4

² and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,

³ so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.

E. The Representative of Paul to the New Believers 3:5

4. TIMOTHY'S REPORT *or* "Good News from Thessalonica" | Thess 3:6-13

A. The Report – Their Faith, Love and Attitude 3:6

⁶ But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you,

B. The Rejoicing 3:7-10

⁷ for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith

C. The Request – Their Visit, Love and Stability 3:11-13

5. CHRISTIAN CONDUCT or “*The Worthy Walk*”

I Thess 4:1-12

A. General Conduct 4:1-2

¹ Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.

B. Sexual Conduct 4:3-8

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality.

C. Affectional Attitude 4:9-10

⁹ Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

D. Social Conduct 4:11-12

6. THE PAROUSIA or “The Lord Returns” | Thess 4:13-18

A. The Purpose of the Instruction 4:13

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

B. The Basis, Certainty and Realization of Our Hope 4:14-17

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep 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 not precede those who have fallen asleep.

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.

7. THE DAY OF THE LORD or *“Like a Thief in the Night”*

I Thess 5:1-11

A. The Knowledge of the Day of the Lord 5:1

B. The Illustration of the Day of the Lord 5:2

² For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.

C. The Setting of the Day of the Lord 5:3

³ While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

D. The Sons of Light in the Day of the Lord 5:4-6

⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

⁶ so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

8. RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE CHURCH or *“Ways to Build Up One Another”* | Thess 5:12-22

A. Our Relationship to Spiritual Leaders 5:12-13

We Are to Appreciate and Esteem Them 5:12-13

B. Our Relationship to Deficient Believers 5:14-15

C. Our Relationship to the Will of God 5:16-22

9. CONCLUSION or *“Now May the God of Peace”*

I Thess 5:23-28

A. Paul’s Prayer to God 5:23-24

B. Paul’s Petition to Thessalonica 5:25-28

Final Thoughts*



As we have seen, in every chapter of this epistle, the coming of the Lord Jesus has been a very prominent focus (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:10; 5:23). Further, it is the conviction of this author that this is an imminent coming, the blessed hope.

The sure coming of the Lord should encourage us to study the Word, pray, faithfully assemble together for fellowship, worship, the preaching and teaching of Scripture, to love the brethren, and many other biblical responsibilities.

* Hampton Keathley