

1 THESSALONIANS OVERVIEW AND CHAPTER 1

11 December 2023

Overview:

Six Topics Addressed in this Letter:

1. Their much persecution. (1:6, 2:2, 2:14, 3:3, 3:7)
2. Accusations against the Apostle Paul refuted (chpt. 2).
3. Sexual immorality (4:3-8). There are 44 warnings in the New Testament.
4. Neglect of temporal (earthly) duties (4:10-12).
5. The dead in the Lord (4:13-18).
6. Social Cliques (favoritism) among members (5:11-23).

Chapter One:

1. 1:1 This letter is addressed by 3 men, not only the Apostle Paul. They are fellowlabourers (Phil. 4:3) and fellowsoldiers (Phil. 2:25) together in the Lord's work.
 - a. **Paul:** a Roman citizen from Tarsus. A former Pharisee. He once persecuted the Church until Christ met him on the road to Damascus (Acts 8).
 - b. **Silvanus:** This is "Silas" (Acts 15:22, 27, 32, 34, 40; 16:19, 25, 29; 17:4, etc).
 - c. **Timotheus:** This is Timothy, whom Paul called his own son in the faith (1 Tim. 1:2). A faithful companion and fellowlabourer together with Paul in the Lord's work. (1 Tim 1:2, 5, 2 Tim 3:15, Php. 2:20).
2. **"God the Father AND the Lord Jesus Christ."** These words are used by some in an attempt to deny the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. Notice that the Church is "IN" God the Father AND the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i. We can't be in two places at once, therefore God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are one.
3. **"Grace be unto you, and peace."** These are gifts of God.
 - a. Grace is unmerited favor (meaning you can't earn it) from God to man. The source of grace is the Godhead.

- b. Peace. We have the peace of Jesus Christ (John 14:27), which is not the same as the peace that the world seeks.
 - i. The world defines peace as the freedom from turmoil, trouble, conflict, hostility.
 - ii. The peace of God “**passeth all understanding**” (Phil. 4:7). We have His peace even when we are in the middle of distresses and conflicts. Christ didn’t promise freedom from troubles. But we have peace even with our troubles.
4. Verse 2: Paul shows a genuine love for these believers. Because of this, he is able to correct them and help them without them becoming offended.
5. Verse 3: “**Your work of faith, and labour of love.**”
- a. Work: that which is PRODUCED.
 - b. Labor: the energy and toil EXPENDED to produce work.
 - c. Your Love for the Lord will cause you to want to serve Him. You don’t need a set of rules and regulations to force you to work.
6. “**Patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.**”
- a. Christians have a sure hope based on God’s promises.
 - b. Patience of hope is connected with verse 10, dealing with the coming of the Lord, at which time our bodies will be redeemed and glorified. Our soul is already redeemed.

VERSE 3

“WORK OF FAITH”

“LABOUR OF LOVE”

“PATIENCE OF HOPE”

VERSES 9-10

“TURNED TO GOD”

“TO SERVE THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD”

“TO WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM HEAVEN.”

7. “**Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.**”
- a. God elects to save any man, woman, or child who will believe the gospel, repent of their sins, and call on the Lord Jesus Christ to save their souls.
 - b. Election is not about a sovereign God deciding beforehand who will go to heaven and who will go to hell. Election is based on what you choose to do with Jesus Christ.