

## Timeline Slide

c. A.D. 33/34

Conversion of Paul

c. A.D. 49–51

Paul writes  
1 Thessalonians

c. A.D. 64–67

Paul martyred  
in Rome

Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians from Corinth near the end of his second missionary journey – around 50 A.D. (Read Acts 16-18).



## MAP Graphic Slide

Paul and his companions had established the church in Thessalonica but were forced to leave by opponents of the gospel. Later, Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to check on the church there, and Timothy's report led Paul to write this letter. Thessalonica enjoyed privileged status as the capital of Macedonia and was located on a natural harbor along the busy east-west Egnatian Way.

When Paul and Silas arrived in Thessalonica they proclaimed Jesus as Messiah in the synagogue for three weeks causing some Jews, many devout Greeks, and leading woman to believe, but raising jealousy in the Jews to the point that the new disciples were severely persecuted before the authorities

**Theme Slide** : The main theme is Jesus' second coming. When he returns, the dead who have believed in Christ will rise and will join the living to meet the Lord in the air (4:15–17). Unbelievers will experience God's wrath, while believers will inherit salvation (1:10; 5:2–4, 9–10). In preparation for that great day, Christians are called to be holy and blameless (3:11–4:8; 5:23). God, who is faithful, will produce in them the holiness he requires (5:24).

**Purpose Slide** : Paul has received a report from Timothy about the Thessalonian church. Paul writes to them to restore their hope, which has been tested by unexpected deaths in the church. He reassures them that both the dead and the living believers will be safe at the second coming (4:13–5:11). In addition, Paul wants (1) to stress the authenticity of himself, Silas, and Timothy as preachers of the gospel (1:5; 2:1–12; 2:17–3:10); (2) to teach them that persecution is normal for Christians (3:3–4); and (3) to challenge them to take responsibility for earning their own living (4:9–12).

**(slide)** The book is clearly written to a group of **very new believers** quickly brought into the faith and then immediately thrown into the “grasp of Satan” as persecutions broke out upon them therefore, questions would immediately arise:

- A. Were Paul’s words true?
- B. If they were from God, why are they being hindered so by persecution?
- C. Now what should they do?

- 1. Their faith was weak (1 Thess. 3:2)
- 2. They needed perspective on the disturbances which they were facing (1 Thess 3:3-4)
- 3. They needed to know how love worked its way out towards others --especially those who persecute them (1 Thess. 3:12)
- 4. They needed to know how “now” related to the future return of Jesus (1 Thess. 3:13)
- 5. They needed to know how far to take Paul’s exhortations toward godly living. (1 Thess. 4:1-5)
- 6. They needed to know how to act within the church (1 Thess. 5)

### **Conclusion Slide**

Today, I express the same satisfaction as Paul: and my thanks to God for the healthy spiritual condition of the church (1:2-10)

Next Sunday, Christine will address Paul’s argument against the false accusations against him and his associates (2:1--3:13)

On November 15 and 22, Christine and I will share how Paul wanted to correct some errors in living which the Thessalonians had adopted (4:1-12; 5:12-18)