



1 Thessalonians

Christian Conduct & The Lord's Return

Outline of 1 Thessalonians

I) Introduction (1:1–10)

- A) Greetings (1:1)
- B) Thanksgiving for the Reception of the Gospel (1:2–10)

II) A Defense of Paul's Ministry and Conduct (2:1 – 3:13)

- A) Paul's Ministry in Thessalonica (2:1–16)
 - 1) A Description of Paul's Ministry and Conduct (2:1–12)
 - a) Characteristics of Paul's Ministry (2:1–2)
 - b) Motivations Behind Paul's Ministry (2:3–8)
 - i) A Desire to Please God (2:3–4)
 - ii) A Desire to Serve, Not to Be Served (2:5–8)
 - c) Additional Characteristics of Paul's Ministry (2:9–12)
 - i) He was Self-Sacrificing (2:9)
 - ii) He was Upright (2:10)
 - iii) He was Faithful (2:11–12)
 - 2) The Validation of Paul's Ministry and Conduct (2:13–16)
 - a) Their Response to Paul's Preaching (2:13)
 - b) Their Participation in the Sufferings of Believers (2:14–16)
- B) Paul's Conduct After Thessalonica (2:17 – 3:13)
 - 1) The Problem of Paul's Continuing Absence (2:17–20)
 - a) The Explanation for Paul's Absence (2:17–18)
 - b) Paul's Desire to Return (2:19–20)
 - 2) The Solution for Paul's Continuing Absence (3:1–10)
 - a) The Sending of Timothy (3:1–5)
 - b) The Report from Timothy (3:6–10)
 - 3) Paul's Prayer to God (3:11–13)

III) Exhortations Concerning the Conduct of the Thessalonians (4:1 – 5:24)

- A) Exhortations Regarding Moral Purity (4:1–8)
 - 1) The Basis for These Exhortations (4:1–2)
 - 2) The Moral Responsibilities of Believers (4:3–6a)

- 3) Reasons for Moral Purity (4:6b–8)
- B) Exhortations Regarding Brotherly Love (4:9–12)
 - 1) The Basis for These Exhortations (4:9–10a)
 - 2) The Responsibility of Believers to Love (4:10b–11)
 - 3) The Goal in Practicing Brotherly Love (4:12)
- C) Exhortations Regarding Believers who have Died (4:13–18)
 - 1) The Basis for This Exhortation (4:13–17)
 - a) Paul’s Concern (4:13)
 - b) God’s Promise of the Rapture (4:14–17)
 - 2) The Exhortation to Comfort One Another (4:18)
- D) Exhortations Regarding the Day of the Lord (5:1–11)
 - 1) The Basis for These Exhortations (5:1–5)
 - a) The Thessalonians’ Knowledge of the Facts (5:1–3)
 - b) The Thessalonians’ Position as Believers (5:4–5)
 - 2) The Responsibilities of Believers (5:6–11)
 - a) The Responsibility to be Morally Upright (5:6–7)
 - b) The Responsibility to Persevere in the Faith (5:8–10)
 - c) The Responsibility to Comfort One Another (5:11)
- E) Exhortations Regarding Other Christian Responsibilities (5:12–22)
 - 1) Responsibilities toward Christian Leaders (5:12–13)
 - a) Respect for Christian Leaders (5:12–13a)
 - b) Living in Peace with One Another (5:13b)
 - 2) Responsibilities toward Other People (5:14–15)
 - 3) Responsibilities toward God (5:16–22)
 - a) Rejoice Always (5:16)
 - b) Pray Without Ceasing (5:17)
 - c) Give Thanks in Everything (5:18)
 - d) Do Not Quench the Spirit (5:19)
 - e) Do Not Despise Prophecies (5:20)
 - f) Test All Things (5:21a)
 - g) Hold Fast to What is Good (5:21b)
 - h) Abstain from Every Form of Evil (5:22)
- F) Paul’s Prayer for the Thessalonians (5:23–24)

IV) Concluding Thoughts (5:25–28)

- A) A Request for Prayer (5:25)
- B) The Sending of Greetings (5:26)
- C) The Command to Read the Epistle (5:27)
- D) The Benediction (5:28)

~AWB