

“Praising God From a Thankful Heart”

1 Thess. 1:1-10 (vv.1-3)

The Sufficiency of His Grace for the Sustaining of His Suffering People

Paul is on his second missionary journey and is accompanied by Silas and Timothy. After traveling to Athens, he sends Timothy to find out the condition of the church in Thessalonica. When Timothy returned, his report solicited Paul’s commendation of the Thessalonian believer.

Paul wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians to encourage the church in the midst of their intense persecution.

The city of Thessalonica . . .

- Seaport City
- On the major highway connecting the Roman Empire with her Northern territories
- 100,000 people in Paul’s day
- A melting pot of humanity
- Religious pluralism
- Large Jewish colony
- Sits in the shadow of Mt. Olympus (i.e., pantheon of Greek mythology)
- Politically, a free Roman state
- Major city in the country of Macedonia

The establishing of the Church

- Paul preached for at least two weeks to the people of Thessalonica.
- His preaching met with deep faith and/or fierce opposition.
- The gospel He preached had the inherent power to turn the world upside down.
- The Thessalonian believers held firm in their conversion to Christ against intense persecution.

The outline for First Thessalonians

- I. Personal Section (chapters 1-3)
 - A. Paul’s commendation of the Thessalonian believers (1)
 - B. Paul’s vindication of his ministry among them (2, 3)
- II. Practical Section (chapters 4, 5)
 - A. Paul’s instruction for the church (4)
 - B. Paul’s exhortation to the church (5)

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There are two primary movements within the first chapter:

- I. The immediate grounds for Paul's thankfulness: their walk (vv.2, 3).
 - A. Their work produced by faith
 - **First**, both are divinely initiated (2 Timothy 2:25).
 - **Second**, both are inseparably linked.
 - **Finally**, both are present in those who believe.
 - B. Their labor produced by love
 - C. Their steadfastness produced by hope

**The person without Christ sees a hopeless end.
The person with Christ sees an endless hope.**

The ultimate ground for Paul's thankfulness: their election (vv. 4-10).