

1st and 2nd Thessalonians

Lesson 1 – An Introduction

Overview - Themes

- Paul's appreciation for their faith and deep concern for their continued faith in the face of trials.
 - 1:3 "remembering without ceasing your work of faith"
 - 1:8 "Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything."
 - 2:11-12 "... as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God ..."
 - 3:5 "For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain."
 - 3:8 "For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord."

Overview - Themes

- Paul's appreciation for their faith and deep concern for their continued faith in the face of trials.
- Correcting misunderstandings about the "Day of the Lord"
 - 4:13 "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope."
 - 5:2 "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night."
 - 2 Thes. 2:1-2 "Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come."

Overview - Themes

- Paul's appreciation for their faith and deep concern for their continued faith in the face of trials.
- Correcting misunderstandings about the "Day of the Lord"
- Various exhortations unto spiritual holiness
 - Moral purity
 - Brotherly love
 - Diligence
 - Attitudes

Overview - Themes

- Paul's appreciation for their faith and deep concern for their continued faith in the face of trials.
- Correcting misunderstandings about the "Day of the Lord"
- Various exhortations unto spiritual holiness
- In general, guidance for a young church that Paul wishes he could provide in person.

Analysis

- Doctrinal – religious statements which taught some Christian concept
- Personal – remarks made concerning Paul or his recipients
- Practical – items of no particular religious nature
- Morality – mainly sins of the flesh
- Comfort – remarks designed to comfort the ones addressed, or features of Christianity that would bring comfort
- Negative – commands, reproofs, rebukes, and warnings

	1 Thes.	2 Thes.
Doctrinal	38	28
Personal	31	4
Practical	3	4
Morality	7	1
Comfort	10	10
Negative	48	13

Analysis

Lesson for us:

- Providing doctrinal instruction and some strong, pointed admonition
 - in a way more readily received by Christians young in the faith.
- Such words as:
 - you know, you remember, we urge, you should, you have no need ..., just as you also are doing, we exhort, we have confidence, do not grow weary in well doing.

Analysis - Highlighting

- 57 times - God, God our Father
- 55 times - Lord, Jesus, Christ, or combination
- 84 times - we, us
- 23 times - brethren
- 7 times - the word, the word of the Lord, the word of God
- 23 times - faith, believe, belief

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers.
3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,
4 knowing, beloved your election by God.
5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.
6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit.
7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.
8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.
9 For they themselves declare concerning us, that manner of our love and to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,
10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus: who delivers us from the wrath to come.
1 Thessalonians 2
1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.
2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.
3 For our exhortation did not come from error or impure motives, nor was it in

Background

- Where was Paul when he wrote these letters?
 - Corinth
- When?
 - On his second missionary journey.
 - Around 52-53 A.D.



Make-up of the church

- Some of the Jews
- A great multitude of devout Greeks
- Many leading women

Purpose and Timing of Letters

- A young church facing very strong Jewish opposition
- He was unable to return to them to strengthen and teach them
 - As he writes in 2:18, "Therefore we wanted to come to you--even I, Paul, time and again--but Satan hindered us."
- He also wanted to reassure them of his concern for them
 - Didn't want them to think he had abandoned them
 - Or, that he was not aware of the struggles they were going through

Some trivia

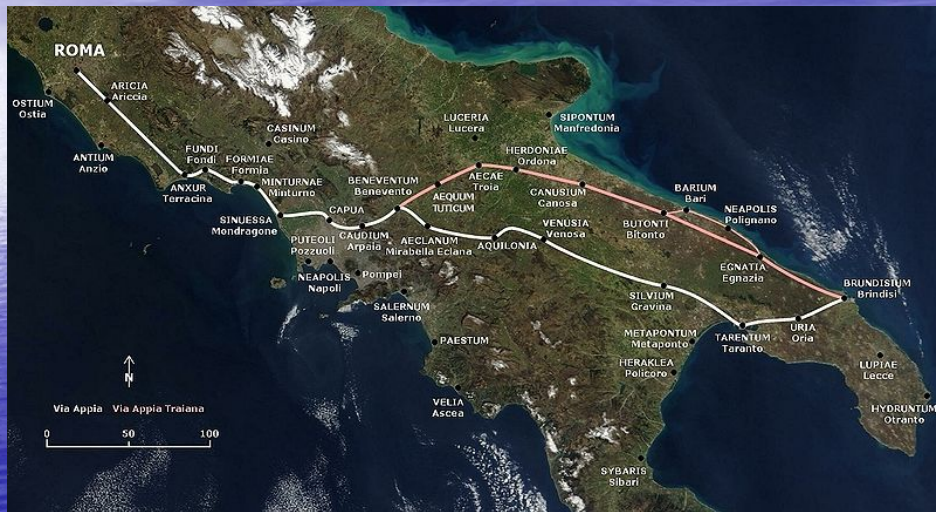
- This was likely the earliest book or letter written in the New Testament with the exception of one letter. What was that letter?
 - The letter to the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia from the Jerusalem council. Acts 15:23-29



On strategic crossroads



Roman roadways



Cultural influences

- Greeks
- Roman colonists
- Jews
- Other cultures
- A large city

"... you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything." 1 Thes. 1:7-8

Our study this quarter

- What questions do you have that you would like us to explore in some detail this quarter?

