

I Thessalonians – Chapter One

In this first chapter Paul lets the Thessalonians know how much he thanks the Lord for them, and for their response to the gospel that he preached, and make mention of their hope in the second coming of the Lord. Note: At the end of every chapter in I Thessalonians, there is mention of the second coming of Jesus, thus this hope grounds this letter as well as their patience, or better said, steadfastness.

v. 1 – Paul, Silvanus (Silas- Silvanus is the Latin form of his name) and Timothy to the church in Thessalonica in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ or the church of God in Christ. Paul humbly mentions Silas and Timothy as co-authors of this letter although, clearly, Paul is the sole author of the letter. This was not about promoting his authority or even superiority over Silas and Timothy, who worked with the Thessalonian church.

v. 2,3 – He makes mention of them in his prayers, giving thanks to God for their 1. Work of Faith 2. Labor of Love 3. Patience of Hope.

Faith – produced their conversion and motivated their service. Works were a fruit of their faith. But salvation is never by works but always by faith.. (Eph 2.8,9 – for by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Love – labor of love, fruitfulness which shows the authenticity of their conversion Loving God, loving one another.

Hope – patience of hope – our hope in the second coming of Christ, which is so strong, so grounded, that we will be steadfast, enduring trials and afflictions because we know that a greater glory will be revealed in us at His appearing.

IN THE SIGHT OF GOD – we live out our lives always conscious that God sees us.

v.5 – the word you received was not received only in sound but in power. It was not the eloquence of the preaching that drew you, it was the power of God's word, of His truth.

v. 6- 9 – The Thess. Became followers of the apostle, imitating their faith and way of living, even though they endured affliction (from the Jews in Thessalonica) But knowledge of their faith and life and courage and sincerity is gone out all over Macedonia and Achaia (Greece) How they have turned from idols to serve the true and living God.

10 – And they wait on the return of Christ from heaven, who was raised from the dead. He shall deliver us from the wrath to come (the judgment)