



**Background:** Following his stay in Philippi, the Apostle Paul journeyed 50 miles west to the ancient city of Thessalonica which was a strategically important roman colony. (*Thessalonica was also 100 miles north of Athens making it the heart of what is today known as Greece.*) According to Acts 17, though his time in this city only spanned three weeks, Paul left behind a strong church in spite of the mounting opposition to his ministry. After being run out of town, Paul headed south to Berea. It was here that Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to check in on the church while he proceeded further south to Athens

alone. From Athens Paul traveled on to Corinth where Timothy returned to give him a report concerning the Thessalonian church. Paul's response to this report is what we consider the first epistle to the Thessalonians.

**Main Point:** In response to Timothy's report, Paul takes an unusual approach with his response. While a good portion of the letter includes Paul reminiscing about his time in Thessalonica and the work the Lord had begun in this church, his exhortation is abundantly clear. Jesus Christ was coming for His church and the Thessalonians needed to live in accordance with this expectancy. Paul encourages these believers to grow in their faith, maintain lives of holiness to God, and live in harmony with each other. Whether in death or in life, the reality of Jesus' soon return should provide all the motivation necessary to live the life we've been called to live.

**OUTLINE OF 1 THESSALONIANS:**

**1. PAUL REMINISCENCE**

- 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4
- 1 THESSALONIANS 1:5-7
- 1 THESSALONIANS 1:8-10

- GREETING AND EXALTATION
- GOSPEL TAKES ROOT
- GOSPEL'S EFFECTS
- TURNED FROM IDOLATRY
- WAIT FOR THE RETURN OF CHRIST
- DEFENDS MINISTRY AND INTENTIONS
- GENUINE CONVERSION
- HOPE OF CHRIST'S RETURN
- TIMOTHY'S REPORT

- 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12
- 1 THESSALONIANS 2:13-16
- 1 THESSALONIANS 2:17-20
- 1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-8

**1. PAUL EXHORTATION**

- 1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13
- 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8
- 1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-10
- 1 THESSALONIANS 4:11-12
- 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-15
- 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18
- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-28

- GROW IN THEIR FAITH
- LIVE A LIFE OF HOLINESS
- LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THE BRETHREN
- LIVE A LIFE OF HONESTY
- WHAT DEATH MEANS FOR THE BELIEVER
- HOPE FOR THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH
- EFFECTS OF THIS HOPE
- AWAKE AND ALERT
- GENERAL EXHORTATIONS

**Key Verse:** "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing." - 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10



### *Day 1: The Rapture: What is it? ....*

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). According to this passage, what is the rapture (or catching away) of the church, or more specifically, explain what Paul is describing in these verses? (2). What does this passage say will happen to the believers who've already died and those who are still alive? (3). To gain a total perspective on the rapture read: 1 Corinthians 15:51-53, Matthew 24, Revelation 4:1-2.

### *Day 2: The Rapture: When will it Happen? ....*

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What two clues does the Bible include when discussing the rapture that should aid in pinpointing its timing? (2). What are the three views concerning the timing of the rapture of the church? (3). Which of the three seems to fall in line with what the Bible says?

### *Day 3: The Rapture: Result - Immanency ....*

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). In regards to the rapture, what is the doctrine of immanency (2). In what way should this expectancy challenge the way I live my life? (3). If you knew Jesus was going to return tomorrow, what would you change about your life in the next 24 hours? What does this reveal to you?

### *Day 4: The Rapture: Result - Endurance ....*

**1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). In what way should Jesus' immanent return provide you the motivation to endure through your present trial or tribulation? (2). In what way does this concept provide you hope and strength to endure? (3). The reality that Jesus will deliver us from the wrath to come tells me what concerning Jesus character?

### *Day 5: The Rapture: Result - Holy Living ....*

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). According to these verses, what tangible, visible effect should the immanent return of Jesus have on your life? (2). In discussing "holiness" why would Paul immediately address "sexual immorality?" What does he mean by this? (3). Are you living a holy life? What needs to change?

### *Day 6: The Rapture: Result - Godly Service ....*

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 // THINKING POINT:** (1). Why should service be a by-product in light of the rapture? (2). Since our King is coming soon, what should His servants be doing? (3). How do you want Jesus to find you when He returns to take us home?

**DEVOTIONS**

to view video lessons visit  
[zachadams.org](http://zachadams.org)