

Daniel Morrison

# SESSION 4: 1 THESSALONIANS

## Class Schedule

- Session 1: Galatians
- Session 2: Ephesians
- Session 3: Philippians
- Session 4: Colossians
- Session 5: 1 Thessalonians

## I. BACKGROUND

- Paul writes to a Christian community only a few months old in the Lord that is already facing significant persecution and affliction on account of their faith in Christ. And Paul, their father in the faith, has been prematurely torn away from them and has significant concern for their young faith in the midst of the opposition that has been set against them.

## II. 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-3:13—CONVERSION 101

- True conversion as exemplified by 1 Thessalonians always consists of two inseparable elements:
  - An uncompromised gospel proclamation
  - True saving faith that treasures Christ above all else

## III. 4:1-5:28—A LIFE PLEASING TO GOD

- Godly conduct (4:1-10)
  - Christian hope (4:13 – 5:11)
  - Christian living “in the meantime” (5:12-22)
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#### IV. 5:23-28—CONCLUSION

#### V. APPENDIX—EXTENDED OUTLINE

##### 1:1 – 3:13: Conversion 101

##### **1:2 – 2:16: The Thessalonians Reception of the Gospel**

- 1:2 – 1:10: The Thessalonian reception of the gospel
  - 2:1 – 2:12: Paul, Silas, and Timothy’s gospel proclamation and life witness
- 2:13 – 16: The Thessalonian reception of the gospel

##### **2:17 – 3:13: Paul’s Burden and Comfort**

- 2:17 – 3:5 Paul’s concern for the Thessalonians in light of their present affliction
- 3:6 – 10: Paul’s comfort from Timothy’s report (in light of the persevering nature of the Thessalonians saving faith, even in the midst of great affliction)
- 3:11 – 3:13: Paul’s prayer to reunite with the Thessalonians and his prayer for God’s continued work in their lives (even while he’s away – Paul’s trust was ground ultimately in God and not himself)

##### 4:1 – 5:28: A Life Pleasing to God

##### **4:1 – 10: Godly Conduct**

- 4:1 – 4:8: Sexual purity
- 4:9 – 12: Brotherly love

##### **4:13 – 5:11: Christian Hope**

- 4:13 – 4:18: Christian hope in light of death (note “encouragement in 5:11)
- 4:19 – 4:11: Christian hope in light of coming judgment (note “encouragement” in 4:18)

**5:12 – 5:22: Christian living “in the meantime”** (between now and the coming of Christ)

##### Conclusion: 5:23 – 5:28

**5:23: Paul’s Benediction and Assurance in God** - Paul’s Continued Hope Built upon Sound Evidence

**5:24 – 28: Paul’s Final Charge** (focus on 5:27)

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