

Bible Helps

1 Thessalonians

What is the purpose of 1 Thessalonians?

Paul's purpose in writing this short letter was two-fold. First of all, he wrote to encourage this fairly young church to be faithful to Christ and His gospel. During the time that the church was founded Paul spent only a few weeks with them. His letter, then, was penned for the purpose of providing inspiration and strength to a church made up of young Christians. The second reason for why Paul wrote concerned his own ministry. There were some people in Thessalonica who were trying to turn the church against Paul. They were saying that he was a fake or possibly in it just for the praise of men. Paul wrote to defend his labor against these critics and he did this by grounding his ministry in the grace of the gospel.

What is unique about the church at Thessalonica?

Unlike the church at Corinth, this church was relatively free from strife and theological error. Given the corrupt nature of the culture in Thessalonica this is quite commendable. Paul laid a solid foundation during his short stay that grounded the church in the authority of God's Word and the centrality of the gospel. This church's faithfulness serves as a model for any local church. They were able to stay faithful in the midst of a changing and challenging culture because their roots went deep into the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us follow in their footsteps!

What is an outline of 1 Thessalonians?

1. The true marks of a church. 1:1-10
2. The true marks of a minister. 2:1-12
3. The effectiveness of the Word. 2:13-20
4. Christian relationships. 3:1-13
5. Christian holiness. 4:1-8
6. Christian love, labor, and life. 4:9-12
7. The Rapture of the church. 4:13-18
8. The Day of the Lord. 5:1-11
9. Christian responsibility. 5:12-28

What are some good resources on 1 Thessalonians?

1. *1 & 2 Thessalonians: Triumphs and Trials of a Consecrated Church* by Richard Mayhue
2. *First and Second Thessalonians* by Charles Ryrie
3. *The Message of 1 & 2 Thessalonians* by John Stott