



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The First Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians

Chapter 1

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Introduction

➤ **Authorship:**

St. Paul. Timothy and Silvanus were mentioned as coworkers with him in establishing the church in Thessalonica (Acts 17: 1-9)

➤ **Date:**

was written in Corinth in 50 – 51 AD. (Could be the first of St. Paul letters or even the first of the NT books)

➤ **Theme:**

Holiness in view of Christ's coming

➤ **Purpose:**

to praise them for their steadfastness in faith and endurance of persecution



Introduction

- To comfort them regarding the departed and correct any misunderstanding regarding the second coming of Christ
- To instruct them to live holy life
- **Background:**

The church was formed in 50 AD during St. Paul's second missionary trip
- It was composed mainly of gentiles and they experienced persecution by their fellow citizens



Introduction

- After his abrupt departure from Thessalonica, St. Paul sent Timothy to confirm them
- After Timothy's return, St. Paul sent this letter to them to encourage and support them
- Chapter 1 is an introduction, started by salutation (1)
- Thanksgiving for their faith, hope, and love (2-4)
- Their reception of the gospel (5-7)
- Their reputation in every place (8-10)



Salutation (1:1)

- Any church is founded in God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ
- Grace and peace are the most needed gifts to any believer
- Grace: because without Him we cannot do anything
- Peace: in the middle of the stormy world



Thanksgiving (1:2-4)

- The true pastor prays always for his flock
- The steadfastness of the flock makes the heart of the pastor joyful and thus his prayers will flow with thanksgiving for them
- Faith is demonstrated by works, love by labor, and hope by patience
- These virtues are before God not men
- Knowing that we are elected by God is our motivation to grow in these virtues

Their Reception Of The Gospel (1:5-7)



- Preaching the gospel:
 - ❖ The word (explain it)
 - ❖ The power (living it)
 - ❖ The Holy Spirit (praying for it)
 - ❖ Assurance (confirming it)
 - ❖ Attitude of the servant (enduring for it)
- They received the gospel in affliction but with joy
- They become followers of the Christ and Apostles and an example to others

Their Reputation In Every Place (1:8-10)



- Preaching by example
- The other believers testified for their faith and the efforts of the Apostles
- They turned from idols (work of faith)
- To serve the true God (labor of love)
- And wait for the Son's coming (patience of hope)
- All of this is based on the truth of resurrection which means deliverance from the wrath to come



Conclusion

- What is the main function of the pastor?
- What makes the heart of the pastor rejoice?
- What are the three main virtues and how they are demonstrated?
- What is the motivation of the believer?
- How should we preach the gospel?
- How should we receive the gospel?
- What is the truth that encourages us to receive the gospel of Christ with endurance?