

# **Insights From 1 Thessalonians**

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# Insights From 1 Thessalonians

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# Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper  
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# 1 Thessalonians

- This letter was written by Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy (1 Thessalonians 1:1).
- The Thessalonians received and spread the gospel in the midst of much affliction (1 Thessalonians 1:6-8).
- It's possible for a church to be greatly afflicted and yet still be joyful because the Holy Spirit gives them joy (1 Thessalonians 1:6).
- When a church suffers great affliction, they can become an example for other churches to follow (1 Thessalonians 1:6-7).
- The faith of the Thessalonian church was so great, and they had spread the gospel so far, that Paul said he didn't need to speak to them about that subject (1 Thessalonians 1:8).
- The God of the Bible is the living and true God (1 Thessalonians 1:9).
- Even though Paul had been persecuted at Philippi, that didn't stop him from boldly preaching the gospel to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 2:1-2).
- The church must never employ deception. God hasn't called us to lie on His behalf, or lie about the gospel, or lie about what the Bible teaches (1 Thessalonians 2:3).
- When Paul presented the gospel he tried to please God, not this world (1 Thessalonians 2:4). Even in times of persecution he sought to proclaim the true gospel instead of appeasing the world.
- God tests our heart (1 Thessalonians 2:4).

- Paul didn't seek glory from anyone – not from the Thessalonian church and not from anyone else (1 Thessalonians 2:6).
- Even though Paul was an apostle and was preaching the gospel in a time of persecution, he still acted with great gentleness (1 Thessalonians 2:7).
- The reason the apostles were willing to share the gospel in times of persecution was because of their love for others. They were driven by love (1 Thessalonians 2:8).
- It's not wrong to ask people to remember the good things that you've done for them in the past (1 Thessalonians 2:9).
- Paul didn't receive money from the Thessalonian church. Instead he worked a job night and day so he could pay his own way – and he did it while being persecuted (1 Thessalonians 2:9). Paul was determined to not put a financial burden on the church.
- Paul loved the Thessalonians so much that he put their needs ahead of his own (1 Thessalonians 2:9).
- Paul gave God all the credit for the fact that the Thessalonians received the gospel (1 Thessalonians 2:13).
- The gospel is the word of God. It's not the words of men (1 Thessalonians 2:13).
- The gospel changes those who believe it (1 Thessalonians 2:13).
- Paul said that the Jews killed the Lord Jesus. They also killed the prophets, persecuted the apostles, and violently opposed those who preached the gospel to the Gentiles (1 Thessalonians 2:14-16).



- Paul described his departure from the Thessalonian church as being taken away from them. He didn't leave them willingly (1 Thessalonians 2:17).
- There are times when the devil is able to prevent us from doing something which would benefit the church and the kingdom of God (1 Thessalonians 2:18).
- The devil is actively fighting against the churches (1 Thessalonians 2:18).
- Even though Paul was only with the Thessalonian church for a short time, he taught them end-times doctrines. He expected them to look forward to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:13-18).
- Paul encouraged the Thessalonian church by telling them they were a source of joy (1 Thessalonians 2:20).
- Paul sent Timothy to visit the Thessalonian church because he believed Timothy had the skills needed to establish them in the faith. He wanted to make sure the afflictions they were suffering didn't cause them to fall away from the gospel (1 Thessalonians 3:2-3).
- God has appointed Christians to suffer (1 Thessalonians 3:3). This means suffering for the sake of the gospel is a normal part of life.
- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to faithfully endure persecution (1 Thessalonians 3:4). He didn't tell the church to change the gospel into something that was acceptable to the world so that the world would love them. Instead he wanted them to stand fast.
- Persecution comes from the devil (1 Thessalonians 3:5).
- Persecution is a form of temptation (1 Thessalonians 3:5).

- It's possible to have faith and yet have something lacking in that faith (1 Thessalonians 3:10).
- Paul earnestly prayed that God would send him back to the Thessalonian church. He didn't pray about it just once, but night and day (1 Thessalonians 3:10). Paul had a passionate desire to visit the churches so he could help them.
- Even though the Thessalonian church was being persecuted, Paul wanted them to abound in love toward one another. Their afflictions didn't give them an excuse to no longer be loving (1 Thessalonians 3:12).
- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to abound in love toward everyone. He didn't limit this love to only fellow Christians (1 Thessalonians 3:12).
- The goal of the church should be to please God more and more, not to please the world around us (1 Thessalonians 4:1).
- The way to please God is to keep His commandments (1 Thessalonians 4:2).
- Christians must learn to rule over our bodies and control them so that we don't sin. The unsaved are controlled by their sinful desires, but we must not be like that (1 Thessalonians 4:4-5).
- The day will come when God will avenge all Christians who have been defrauded (1 Thessalonians 4:6).
- Christians must pursue holiness and obey God's commandments. We must have nothing to do with sin (1 Thessalonians 4:7).
- Those who despise God's commandments and live sinful

lives are actually despising God Himself (1 Thessalonians 4:8).

- Christians should be characterized by love (1 Thessalonians 4:9).
- Paul told the persecuted and suffering Thessalonian church that even though they already loved one another, it was important for their love to continue to grow (1 Thessalonians 4:10). Even those who are being persecuted still have a duty to love others.
- Some virtues don't come naturally. It's important for us to learn them anyway so that we can please God (1 Thessalonians 4:11).
- Christians don't have the right to treat those who are outside the church either dishonestly or unfairly (1 Thessalonians 4:12).
- Paul taught the persecuted Thessalonians to meet their material needs by working with their hands (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12).
- Paul didn't want the Thessalonian church to be ignorant of end times doctrines (1 Thessalonians 4:13). Not only did he teach that subject to them during his short visit, but he mentioned it repeatedly in this letter and even dedicated a major section to it! He believed this topic was relevant to a persecuted and suffering church. Paul did *not* believe it was a distraction or it didn't matter.
- Those who are unsaved experience great sorrow when a person dies. Christians don't have to experience those same depths of sorrow because we know there's a resurrection to come (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).
- Those who are outside the church have no hope (1

Thessalonians 4:13).

- Just as Jesus died and rose again, so those who are dead in Christ will one day rise again (1 Thessalonians 4:14, 16).
- When the Lord Jesus Christ returns, He will bring the dead in Christ with Him (1 Thessalonians 4:14).
- When the Lord Jesus Christ returns, there will still be some Christians left in this world (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). This means some people will never die.
- There's only one archangel (1 Thessalonians 4:16).
- Jesus isn't going to return secretly. When He returns the archangel's voice will be heard and the trumpet of God will sound (1 Thessalonians 4:16).
- When the Lord Jesus Christ returns, those who are dead in Christ will rise first. Then the living Christians will be transformed and we will all meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
- After the resurrection we will never be parted from Jesus again (1 Thessalonians 4:17).
- Paul believed that the doctrine of the rapture should be a source of great comfort to the Thessalonian church (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
- The return of the Lord Jesus Christ should bring us comfort, not fear or anxiety (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
- Paul spent time teaching the Thessalonians about the “day of the Lord”, which is what the Old Testament called the seven-year tribulation period (1 Thessalonians 5:2).
- When the tribulation period begins the world won't see it coming. They'll have no idea that terrible times are at

hand and they are all about to be destroyed (1 Thessalonians 5:3). This means life will be good right before it begins, because people won't be expecting the end of the world and they will instead be talking about peace and safety.

- Paul commanded the church to not fall asleep when it comes to the end times (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2, 6). He expected the church to have a solid understanding of end times theology, to know the times and seasons, and to be actively watching for the return of Christ. This means there are specific signs that the church must be watching for.
- A lack of watchfulness is a characteristic of the lost. It must not be a characteristic of Christians (1 Thessalonians 5:6-7).
- One day God will pour out His wrath upon this world (1 Thessalonians 5:3). However, God hasn't appointed the church to face His wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:9).
- Whether we're alive or dead, we are with Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:10).
- Jesus died so that we might always be with Him (1 Thessalonians 5:10).
- Christians should highly esteem those who have authority over the church (1 Thessalonians 5:13).
- Christians must be patient toward everyone (1 Thessalonians 5:14).
- Christians must do good to everyone. This includes both those who are in the faith, and those who are not (1 Thessalonians 5:15).

- Paul told the persecuted and suffering Thessalonian church to rejoice (1 Thessalonians 5:16) and be thankful (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It's God's will for us to be thankful regardless of our circumstances.
- It's possible to quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19).
- Christians must not despise prophecy (1 Thessalonians 5:20).
- Christians must reject false teachings and hold fast to whatever is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Paul does *not* say that we must reject unpopular teachings and hold fast to whatever will win the approval of the world.
- It's not enough for Christians to abstain from evil. We must also not do anything that looks evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22). This is different from doing something that's good but the world hates.
- God is the one who sanctifies us (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- People have a spirit, a soul, and a body. Those are three different and separate things (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- Paul wanted us to remain blameless until the Lord Jesus returns (1 Thessalonians 5:23). He thought it was extremely important for us to be blameless when that moment arrives.
- God is the one who called us (1 Thessalonians 5:24).
- God will keep His promises (1 Thessalonians 5:24).
- Paul believed there was value in having other people pray for him (1 Thessalonians 5:25).