

**BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION TO 1 THESSALONIANS
(THE MODEL CHURCH)**

*The need of a good mentor or model to follow:

I. Paul's Salutation (1:1)

A. His Introduction (1:1a)

1. The writer of this book identifies himself as _____. He is the human author, as God used him to write these words of _____ so that we could glean from them God's _____ today as well.

* What do we know about Paul?

2. Paul was accompanied by _____ and _____.

* What do we know about these two men?

* What can we learn from these three names Paul included in verse one? (at least 3 things)

3. The **recipients** of this letter were 1) the _____ at _____, as well as, 2) the universal _____.

* What is the Church (ekklesia)?

* How is the word used in scripture?

* What the church is **not**.... It's not...

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5.

4. Some **facts** about the **city** and **church** at Thessalonica:

5. How was this church **founded**? (Acts 17:1-7)

a. Paul's approach was through a _____.

Why was that important?

b. Paul _____ (dialogued) & demonstrated to them for 3 Sabbaths out of the _____.

Why through the scriptures?

c. ... Paul to preach to them the _____ of God's grace.

d. When the gospel is preached clearly, expect 2 things: _____ on the one hand, and _____ on the other! (17:5-9)

- Where did the opposition come from?
- How long was Paul in Thessalonica?

6. While their **physical address** was _____, their **spiritual address** was "in" _____ and _____.

*What is **significant** about this spiritual address?

* How did this change in spiritual position come about?

* What is significant to note about all this?

B. The Greeting Included... (1:1b)

1. A Gentile greeting emphasizing “_____to you.”
2. A Jewish greeting emphasizing “_____.”

*Who is the **source** of these blessings?

*Is there significance to this **order**?

C. The OCCASION & PURPOSES of this letter. (Paul’s intent & the H.S. desire in writing this letter were...

1. The *occasion* was to _____them in their faith (chp 1-3), and to answer some _____that Timothy related to Paul from them (chp 4-5).
2. He *purposes* were many ...
 - a. To express _____for the spiritual _____of this church. (1:2-10)
 - b. To _____them to _____(1:2-10; 2:13-16)
 - c. To address and answer false _____ against Paul and his associates. (2:1-3:13)
 - d. To address the importance of _____& _____ in the church (4:1-12)
 - e. To teach and instruct them about those who had already _____. (4:13-5:11)
 - f. To instruct them about _____. (5:12-22)

D. Some pertinent FEATURES of 1 Thessalonians

1. This letter is probably the _____of Paul’s epistles (preceded only by Galatians) and was written from _____around_____.
2. This book is very _____in tone (note the use of “we,” “us,” “you,” and “I” through out the book). Paul is expressing his heart to an _____but spiritually _____church.
3. 1 Thessalonians follows Paul’s normal style of declaring _____(positional truth/ what God has done and provided by His grace and through His Son, followed by

_____ / what God now wants to do in and through you by His grace. (note the use of commands/ imperative verbs)

4. The value of this epistle _____ is that it teaches about ...
- the inspiration, power, and authority of _____. (1:5-6, 2:13)
 - the one true and living _____ (1:1, 9) existing in ___ persons. (1:1, 5, 6, 3:11, 13, 4:8, 5:19, 23)
 - the _____ of Christ. (1:1, 3, 3:11-12)
 - _____ based on Christ's death & resurrection. (4:4, 5:9-10)
 - the believer's _____ and _____ with Christ. (1:1, 5:5)
 - the believer's sanctification by grace through _____ (1:3) in the _____ (2:13), resulting in a godly _____ to others. (1:6-10, 4 & 5)
5. The outstanding feature of this book is the **eschatological emphasis** on the return of the _____ and the believer's future _____ in Christ. (1:10, 2:19-20, 3:12-13, 4:17-18, 5:23)

E. Book Chart of 1 Thessalonians

- How does this book apply to you?