

Structure and Literary Design

1 Thessalonians

Prayer: *Faith, Love, Hope* (1:2-3)

Paul and the Thessalonians (1:4—3:10)

Thessalonians' Conversion (1:4-10)

Paul's Ministry (2:1-12)

Thessalonians' Persecution (2:13-16)

Paul's Messengers (2:17—3:10)

Prayer: *Love, Holiness, Hope* (3:11-13)

Report from Timothy (4:1—5:11)

Holiness: Do Not Be Promiscuous (4:1-8)

Love: Do Not Be Idle (4:9-12)

Hope: Do Not Be Uninformed (4:13—5:11)

Final Instructions (5:12-22)

Prayer: *Holy, Hope* (5:23-24)

Three Prayers
1 Thessalonians

1:2-3

² We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, ³ remembering before our God and Father

your work of **faith**

and labor of **love**

and steadfastness of **hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ.

3:11-13

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you

increase and abound in **love** for one another and for all, as we do for you,

¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in **holiness** [ἁγιάζω] before our God and Father,

at the **coming** of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

5:23-24

²³ Now may the God of peace himself

sanctify [ἁγιάζω] you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless

at the **coming** of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Paul and the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 1:4—3:10

Thessalonian' Conversion (1:4-10)

⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

Paul's Ministry (2:1-12)

¹For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was not in vain. ²But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict ... ⁵For we never came with words of flattery, as you know ... ⁹For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

Thessalonians' Persecution (2:13-16)

¹³And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers. ¹⁴For you, brothers, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews

Paul's Messengers (2:17—3:10)

¹⁷But since we were torn away from you ... ¹⁸because we wanted to come to you ... but Satan hindered us. ²and we sent Timothy ... ³that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. ⁴For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction ... just as you know ... ⁶But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith

Report from Timothy
1 Thessalonians 4:1—5:11

<i>Holiness: Do Not Be Promiscuous (4:1-8)</i>	<i>Love: Do Not Be Idle (4:9-12)</i>	<i>Hope: Do Not Be Uninformed (4:13—5:11)</i>
¹ Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God (4:1a) just as you are doing, (4:1b) that you do so more and more. (4:1c)	⁹ Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another (4:9) ¹⁰ for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. (4:10a) But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more (4:10b)	¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves are fully aware (5:1b-2a) ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up... (5:11a) ...just as you are doing. (5:11b)
³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality (4:3)	aspire to ... work with your hands ... and be dependent on no one. (4:11, 12)	we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep (4:15b)