

## The Bible - Week 42 (October 31st)

Eric Swanson / General

# Thessalonians

**Author:** Paul, Timothy and Silas

**Date:** sometime in the early 50's

**Audience:** Thessalonica was the northern part of the Aegean Sea and this was a new group of believers without much formal training.

**Reason:** The first letter was to encourage them to press into their faith, avoid false teaching and keep working until Jesus returns.

**Theme:** Expecting Jesus

**Key Verse:**

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 CEB**

Now, may the God of peace himself cause you to be completely dedicated to him; and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept intact and blameless at our Lord Jesus Christ's coming.

**2 Thessalonians 1:6-7 CEB**

After all, it's right for God to pay back the ones making trouble for you with trouble and to pay back you who are having trouble with relief along with us. This payback will come when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his powerful angels.

**Sections:** 1 Thessalonians - Praise (Ch 1-3), Encouragement (ch 4-5), 2 Thessalonians - Perseverance (ch 1), The Future (Ch 2-3)

**Key Words:** Gospel, Faith, Hope, Day Of the Lord

**Basic Intro:** Paul starts with motivating the early church and praising them. Second Thessalonians has Paul confronting a letter falsely bearing his name that goes against his teaching and theology. He is trying to correct that false teaching.

**Questions for Discussion:**

- **What are your views on a holistic Life - Work - Ministry balance? Do you live that well or do you fall into trying to do one more than the others?**
- **What does it mean to work for the Lord, as Paul put it in 1 Thessalonians?**
- **How do you act like a cheerleader for others like Paul did?**
- **How would you handle the kind of false letter thing Paul faced?**
- **How do you bring the work of the church and the message of Jesus into your workplace, social clubs, etc...?**