
BOOK OVERVIEW

I Thessalonians

Author: the Apostle Paul

Date: A.D. 52

Recipients: “the church of the Thessalonians” (I Thessalonians 1:1)

Summary: the second coming of Christ

Key verses: I Thessalonians 1:9–10

Key words: coming (of Christ, 4 times), comfort (6 times)

Notes:

When Paul writes of “we,” he is undoubtedly referring to Silas and Timothy, who are with him. (1:2, 5, 8, 9; 2:2)

From Athens Paul had sent Timothy to see how the church at Thessalonica was doing. Paul was in Corinth by the time Timothy returned and this letter is written in response to Timothy’s report. (3:1-2)

The church in Thessalonica was established during Paul’s second missionary journey. Paul spent only about three weeks in the city. (Acts 17:1-10)

This epistle is one of the earliest writings of Paul that we have today.

Apparently many in the church were confused about the return of Christ. Some were concerned that loved ones who had died would miss Christ’s return and others had stopped working and were idly waiting for Christ’s return.

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