

# LETTERS TO THE Thessalonians

WHO BELIEVE. 8 FOR FROM YOU THE WORD OF THE LORD  
WENT FORTH, NOT ONLY IN MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA, BUT  
IN EVERY PLACE. YOUR FAITH TOWARD GOD HAS GONE OUT,  
AND WE DO NOT NEED TO SAY ANYTHING. 9 FOR THEY  
ALREADY DECLARE CONCERNING US WHAT MANNER OF ENTRY WE  
HAD TO YOU, AND HOW YOU TURNED TO GOD FROM IDOLS TO SERVE  
THE LIVING AND TRUE GOD, 10 AND TO WAIT FOR HIS SON FROM  
HEAVEN, WHOM HE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, EVEN JESUS WHO  
GAVE US FROM THE WRATH TO COME.

SILVANUS, AND TIMOTHY,

TO THE CHURCH OF THE THESSALONIANS IN GOD THE FATHER AND  
THE SON OF HIS ONLY SON, JESUS CHRIST:

GRACE AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND THE LORD  
JESUS CHRIST.

WE ALWAYS THANK YOU FOR THE GOOD EXAMPLE

WHICH YOU SET FOR US BY YOUR THANKS TO GOD ALWAYS FOR YOU ALL, MAKING MENTION

OF US IN YOUR PRAYERS, 3 REMEMBERING WITHOUT CEASING YOUR

FAITH, LABOR OF LOVE, AND PATIENCE OF HOPE IN OUR

LOOKING FOR THE SON OF GOD AND FATHER, 4

BELOVED BRETHREN, YOUR ELECTION BY GOD. 5 FOR OUR

GOAL WAS NOT TO COME TO YOU IN WORD ONLY, BUT ALSO IN POWER,

AND WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND IN MUCH ASSURANCE, AS YOU KNOW

WE WERE AMONG YOU FOR YOUR SAKE. 6

BECAUSE WE BECAME FOLLOWERS OF US AND OF THE LORD, HAVING

THE WORD IN MUCH AFFLICTION, WITH JOY OF THE HOLY

SO THAT YOU BECAME EXAMPLES TO ALL IN MACEDONIA

AND ACHAIA WHO BELIEVE. 8 FOR FROM YOU THE WORD OF THE LORD

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THEIR CONVERSION

13 FOR THIS REASON WE ALSO THANK GOD WITHOUT CEASING  
BECAUSE WHEN YOU RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD WHICH YOU  
HEARD FROM US, YOU BELIEVED IT, AND YOU WALKED AS YOU  
WERE TAUGHT TO DO.

2 FOR YOU YOURSELVES KNOW, BRETHREN, THAT OUR COMING  
TO YOU WAS NOT IN VAIN. 2 BUT {A}EVEN AFTER WE HAD  
BEEN WITH YOU, WE WERE NOT ABLE TO COME TO YOU AGAIN  
BEFORE AND WERE SPITEFULLY TREATED AT PHILIPPI.

3 BUT KNOWING THAT WE WERE IN THE HANDS OF GOD, WE  
KNEW WE WERE BOLD IN OUR GOD TO SPEAK TO YOU THE  
GOSPEL OF GOD IN MUCH CONFLICT. 3 FOR OUR EXHORTATION DID NOT  
COME FROM ERROR OR UNCLEANNESS, NOR WAS IT IN DECEIT.

4 FOR WE WERE NOT TRYING TO PLEASE MEN, BUT GOD,  
WHO TESTS OUR HEARTS. 5 FOR NEITHER AT ANY TIME DID WE  
USE FLATTERING WORDS, AS YOU KNOW, NOR A {B}CLOAK  
OF NECESSITY.

6 FOR WE WERE NOT SEEKING GLORY OR HONOR FROM  
ANYONE, EITHER FROM YOU OR FROM OTHERS, WHEN WE MIGHT  
HAVE MADE DEMANDS AS APOSTLES OF CHRIST. 7 BUT WE WERE  
GENTLE AMONG YOU, JUST AS A NURSING MOTHER CHERISHES HER

CHILDREN. 8 SO, AFFECTIONATELY LONGING FOR YOU,  
WE WERE WELL PLEASED TO IMPART TO YOU NOT ONLY THE GOSPEL OF  
GOD, BUT ALSO OUR OWN LIVES, BECAUSE YOU HAD BECOME DEAR  
TO US.

9 FOR YOU REMEMBER, BRETHREN, OUR LABOR AND TOIL  
LABORING NIGHT AND DAY, THAT WE MIGHT NOT BE A BURDEN  
ON ANY OF YOU, WE PREACHED TO YOU THE GOSPEL OF GOD.

10 YOU ARE WITNESSES, AND GOD ALSO, HOW DEVOUTLY  
AND JUSTLY AND BLAMELESSLY WE BEHAVED OURSELVES AMONG  
YOU WHO BELIEVE; 11 AS YOU KNOW HOW WE EXHORTED, AND COMFORTED  
AND {C}CHARGED EVERY ONE OF YOU, AS A FATHER DOES HIS

CHILDREN, 12 THAT YOU WOULD WALK WORTHY OF GOD WHO  
CALLS YOU INTO HIS OWN KINGDOM AND GLORY.

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WEEK OF MAY 3, 2026

## LETTERS TO THE THESSALONIANS

HEALTHY CHURCH DYNAMICS (1THESS. 1:1-10)

SPEAKER: PASTOR MIKE BURNETTE

### ICEBREAKER

THIS WEEKEND WAS THE KY DERBY. IF YOU HAD A RACE HORSE,  
WHAT WOULD YOU NAME IT?



#### POWERFUL PASTOR / CHURCH RELATIONSHIP (1 THESS. 1:1-3)

- *Why is it important that the church belongs to God first, not a pastor?*
- *The church in Thessalonica was known for ...*  
*Work of Faith - That is a COMMITMENT to a life of FAITH in Christ!*  
*Labor of Love - They were KNOWN for Loving God and Loving People!*  
*Steadfastness of Hope - The New Testament idea of HOPE is not wishful thinking. It is living in the waiting for the return of Jesus.*
- *Which one of these areas is the most challenging for you to walk out and why?*

#### WE RECEIVE FAITH, WE MODEL OUR FAITH FOR OTHERS (1 THESS. 1:4-7)

- *Pastor Mike asked, "Who are you currently imitating? And is your faith worthy of being imitated?"*

#### THE CHURCH IS THE VOICE FOR GOD IN THE WORLD (1 THESS. 1:8-10)

- *Have there been or are there currently any "idols" or areas in your life God is calling you to turn from?*
- *The scripture says we were chosen by God and called to share the gospel, how are you sharing the gospel in your everyday life?*

WEEK OF MAY 3, 2026

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## ACT ON IT



### ENCOURAGE

Be encouraged - God has chosen you, and He is actively working in and through your life. You don't have to force impact or manufacture change. When you simply live out the Gospel, God breathes on it. Your faith matters. Your story matters. And your life - lived for Jesus - can echo far beyond what you can see. Even in a world that feels chaotic, you get to be part of something steady, powerful, and full of hope.



### ASK

Take a moment and identify one area of your life that needs realignment with God. Is there something you need to turn from (repentance)? Is there somewhere you need to trust God more deeply (faith)? Is there a place where you've lost hope? Then ask God this simple question; "Lord, what does obedience look like for me this week?" And commit to taking one step - just one - toward Him.



### CHALLENGE

This week, make the decision to intentionally live a faith that is visible. Not just something you believe privately - but something that shows up in how you love people, how you respond under pressure, and how you talk about Jesus. Ask yourself daily, "If someone imitated my life today, would it lead them closer to Jesus?". Be a person known for faith, love, and hope - not just in church, but in your home, your workplace, and your everyday interactions.

## PRAYER

Lord, thank You for calling us to be Your Church. Help us to be people marked by faith, love, and hope in every area of our lives. Show us where we need to turn back to You, and give us the courage to obey. Teach us to live in a way that others can follow as we follow You. And use our lives to make Your name known in our homes, our city, and our world. We trust You, we follow You, and we give You all the glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.