



I Thessalonians 2

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Author: Apostle Paul. Jewish. Brilliant theological mind. Trained as a Pharisee. He was zealous for God—doing what he thought was right at the time by persecuting the church of Jesus. He had a dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus. After that, he received this revelation of the Gospel after his conversion—that the gentiles were included in the plan of redemption apart from the Law of Moses. And God sent him as an apostle to take the Gospel revelation to both the Jews and Gentiles. But as we see in this letter, he also had a tender, gentle and caring pastor’s heart.

Thessalonica: Was a city of 200,000 people at the time. Busy city of commerce. It was a port. It was on the famous Egnatian Way—the Roman road connecting western Europe with Asia through Byzantium (later to be known as Constantinople, now modern-day Istanbul). Paul established the church at Thessalonica on his second missionary journey (49-52 A.D.) Acts 17:1-15

Date: The letter was written 50-54 A.D. or about 20 years after Jesus had ascended into heaven. Written from Corinth. Some scholars think this may be the first of thirteen letters that Paul wrote to the churches. So, Paul is writing this letter about 1-2 years after he established the church in Thessalonica.

Purpose: In this letter Paul:

- Encourages the believers in Thessalonica to persevere despite persecution.
- Addresses those who questioned his motives in preaching the Gospel.
- Refutes false charges made by his enemies that he had preached for personal benefit (monetary gain).
- Refutes claims that he had not returned because he was a coward and a hypocrite.
- Wrote to correct some errors that had cropped up in the church—regarding moral laxity and laziness and a tendency not to respect the church’s spiritual leaders.
- Gave instructions about what would happen to Christians who would die before the Lord’s return.

Practical application of I Thessalonians 2:

1. We should live to please God and not people.
2. We should live lives worthy of God—holy, righteous, and blameless.
3. With every believer—but especially new believers—we should be gentle, tender. We should encourage, comfort and urge/inspire/challenge others to live lives that please God.
4. We should not be surprised if we are persecuted because of our faith in Jesus.

Additional Scripture References: Acts 9:15, I Peter 1:23

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