

God's Masterwork, Volume Six Letters to God's People — A Survey of Romans – Philemon

1 Thessalonians: A Heart-to-Heart Talk

A SURVEY OF 1 THESSALONIANS



The Heart of the Matter

Being one of Paul's earliest letters to find its way into the canon of Scripture, 1 Thessalonians includes a number of personal insights into his early life in ministry. We see and feel Paul's "heart" on several occasions. Although brief (fewer than ninety verses), this letter also outlines such practical matters as a church model worth emulating, a philosophy toward ministry worth following, a commitment to purity worth remembering, a hope of Christ's coming worth anticipating, and a love for fellow Christians worth duplicating. Let's pay close attention. This letter is an extremely helpful resource to turn to when any of these areas need to be strengthened.



Discovering the Way

1. Why Was the Letter Written? (1 Thessalonians 2:1–2, 17–18; 3:1–8; 4:1–12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–10)

In the midst of suffering and opposition, Paul wanted to share the gospel with the Thessalonians.

2. Who Received It . . . and When? (1 Thessalonians 1:6–10)

Paul wrote to the saints who comprised the faithful church in Thessalonica.

3. What Does It Include? (1 Thessalonians 1:2–5; 2:1–7, 13–16; 3:11–13; 4:1–8, 13–18; 5:6–13)

Review the chart of 1 Thessalonians on the next page: chapters 1–3 of the book reflect on Paul's time with the Thessalonians, and chapters 4–5 exhort and encourage the Thessalonians to continue imitating Christ.

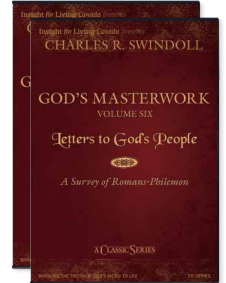


Starting Your Journey

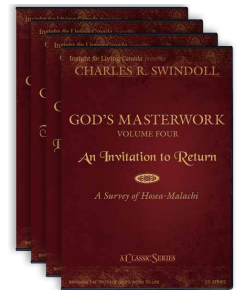
We have been reached, so are we reaching others? We have been fed, so are we feeding others? We have received instruction, so are we instructing others? We have been encouraged, so are we encouraging others?



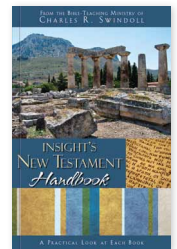
Tools for Digging Deeper



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FIRST THESSALONIANS

	The Pastor's Heart			The Pastor's Burden	
	<u>Thanksgiving</u> <u>Remembering</u> <u>Affirming</u> <u>Reporting</u>	The pastor among the flock <u>The flock's response to the pastor</u>	<u>Personal concern</u> <u>Comfort and relief</u>	<u>Sexual purity</u> <u>Prophetic urgency</u>	<u>Stay alert!</u> <u>Encourage one another!</u> <u>Live in peace!</u>
	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTER 2	CHAPTER 3	CHAPTER 4	CHAPTER 5
Perspective	Looking back			Looking ahead	
Subject	The church itself	The apostle himself	The report	The concern	The balance
Especially Appropriate for . . .	new converts	young pastors	suffering Christians	tempted and uninformed Christians	"sleepy" Christians
Theme	The hope of Christ's return comforts us and motivates us to godly living.				
Key Verses	1:8–10; 4:1, 13–18				
Christ in 1 Thessalonians	Jesus is our source of hope and comfort, the One who rescues believers from the coming wrath (1:10; 4:13–5:11).				

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