



1 Thessalonians

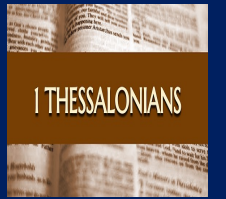
LIVING FOR CHRIST'S SOON RETURN



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary

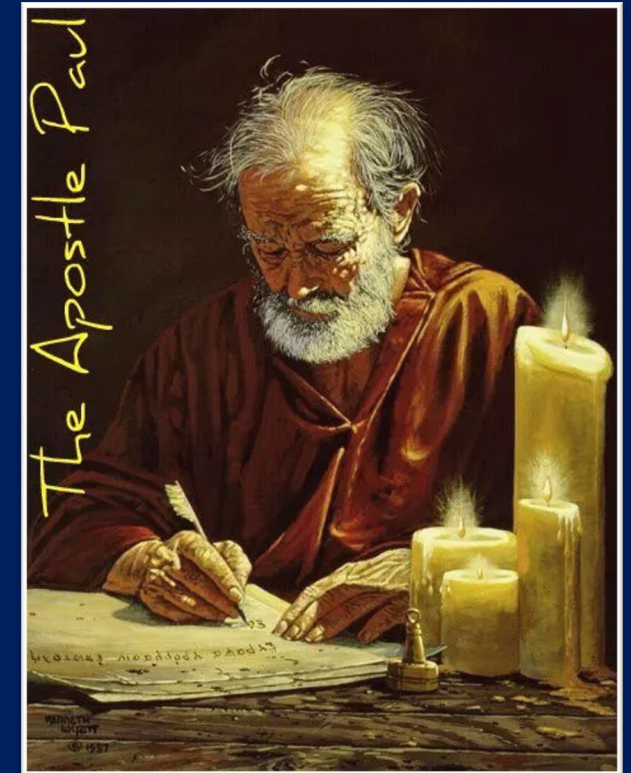


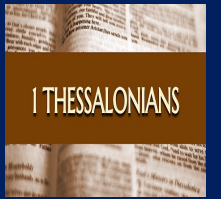
Introductory Matters

- Authorship
- Recipients
- Place of writing
- Date
- Audience
- Occasion
- Structure
- Unique characteristics
- Purpose
- Message

Structure

1 THESSALONIANS 1-3	1 THESSALONIANS 4-5
■ Personal Experience	■ Practical Exhortation
■ Looking Back	■ Looking Forward





Structure

■ Personal (1–3)

- ◆ Genuine conversion (1)
- ◆ Impure motives (2:1-16)
- ◆ Lack of concern (2:17–3:13)

■ Practical (4–5)

- ◆ Immorality (4:1-8)
- ◆ Laziness (4:9-12)
- ◆ Eschatology (4:13–5:11)
- ◆ Ministry imbalances (5:12-15)
- ◆ Progressive sanctification (5:16-28)



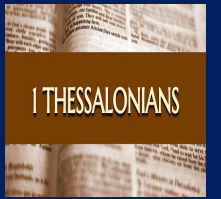
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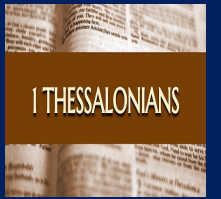
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Genuine Conversion? (1 Thess 1)

- Greeting (1:1)
- Faith, hope, and love in Christ (1:2-3)
- Response to the Gospel (1:4-5)
- Joy in the midst of tribulation (1:6)
- Example to those in Macedonia and Achaia (1:7)
- No formal missionary endeavor (1:8-9a)
- Turned from idols (1:9b)
- Eschatological hope (1:10)



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Pauline Motives? (2:1-12)

- 2:1-2 – Message, motives, and method
- **2:3-12 – Elaboration**
 - ◆ Message (2:3-4)
 - ◆ Motives (2:5-8)
 - ◆ Method (2:9-12)

1 Thessalonians 2:12

“So that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into [*eis*] His own kingdom and glory.”



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Three Tenses of Salvation

Phase	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	Present	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	Power	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	Philip 2:12	Rom 5:10

E.R. Craven

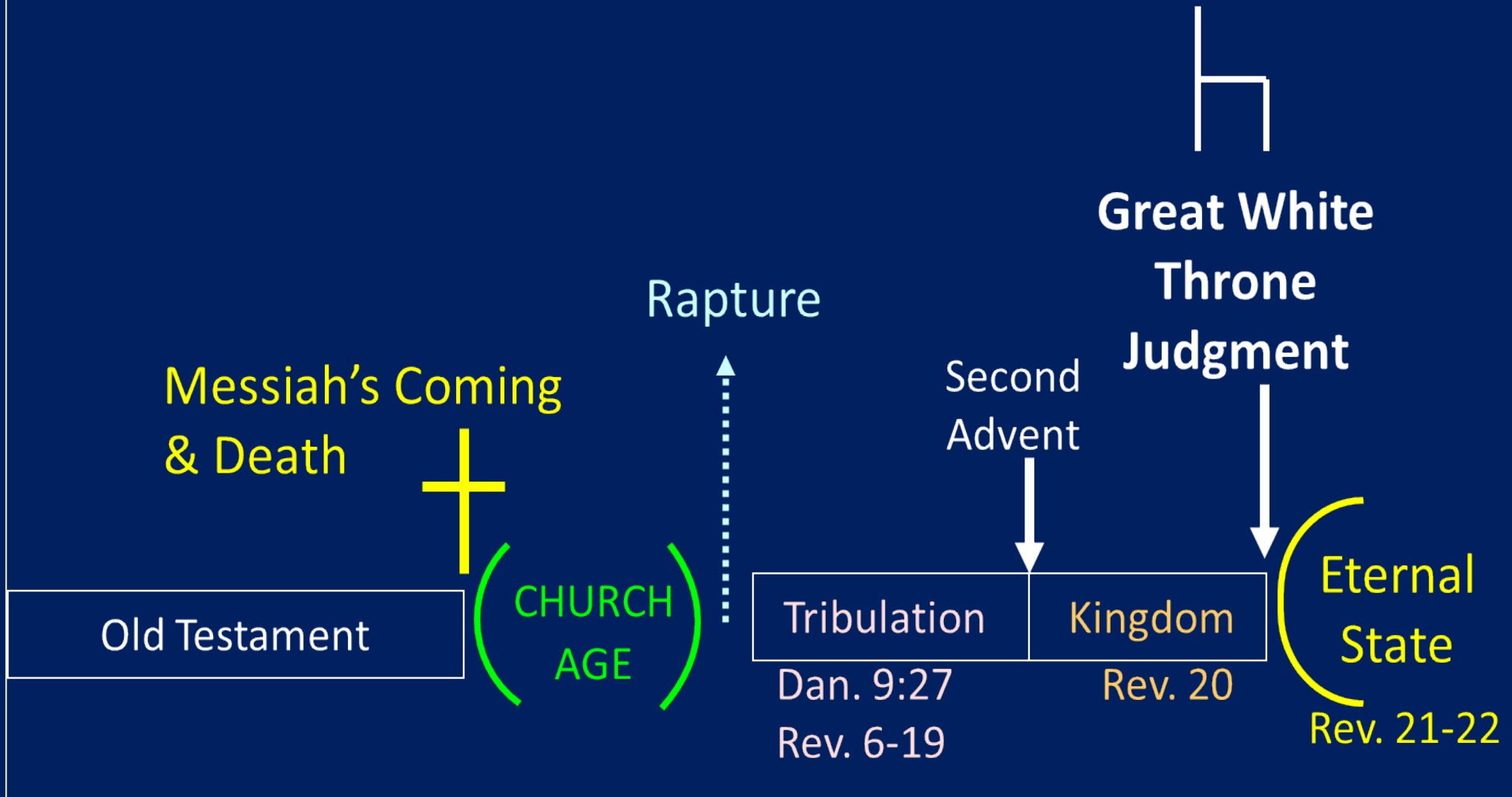
“*Excursus on the Basileia*,” in Revelation of John,
J. P. Lange (New York: Scribner, 1874), 97.



“The preposition in the Greek is **εἰς**. But since believers on earth are not yet in *glory*, the whole expression is manifestly *proleptical, and the E. V. gives the translation, *unto*.”

*proleptical – *the representation of something in the future as if it already existed or had occurred.*

Prophecy Panorama



2 Peter 3:10-11

“¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness.”

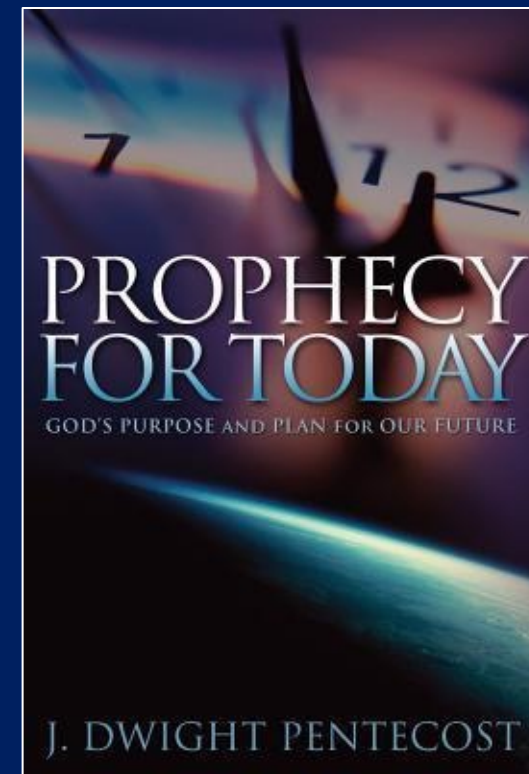




J. Dwight Pentecost

Prophecy For Today, Page 20

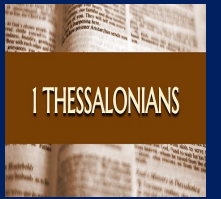
“A short time ago, I took occasion to go through the New Testament to mark each reference to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and to observe the use made of that teaching about His coming. I was struck anew with the fact that almost without exception, when the coming of Christ is mentioned in the New Testament, it is followed by an exhortation to godliness and holy living.”





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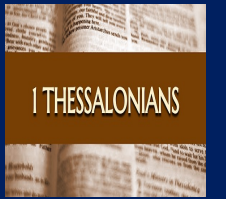
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Genuine Conversion? (2:13-16)

- 2:13 – Changed lives
- 2:14-15 – Part of an elite group (Judean believers, Christ, apostles, and Paul)
- 2:16 – Wrath stored up against enemies (Rom 2:5; Gen 15:16)



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2 Peter 1:19-21

“¹⁹ So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved [pherō] by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”



INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE

V. 20-21

- Men Wrote as they were inspired by Holy Spirit
 - ◆ *“pherō” = to carry*
 - ◆ *Acts 27:15,17*
- Opposite of Knowledge of False Teachers
 - ◆ *Which is their own imagination*
 - ◆ *Jer. 23:16*



2 Timothy 3:16-17

“All Scripture is inspired by God [*theopneustos*] and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”



1 Timothy 4:13

“Until I come, give your attention to the public reading, to exhortation, and teaching.”





Emphasis of 2 Timothy

“By my count, there are twenty-seven explicit commands given in the body of this letter. In 27 words Paul tells pastors what to focus on. You have to be blind to miss the thrust of Paul's instructions here, because *eighteen* of those commands--fully *two-thirds*--have to do with the ministry of the *Word*.”

Daniel Wallace, “Crisis of the Word: A Message to Pastors or Would-be Pastors,”
Conservative Theological Journal 1, no. 2 (August 1997): 108.

Activities of the Local Church

(Acts 2:41-47)

1. Doctrine (Acts 2:42)
2. Ordinances (Acts 2:41-42, 46)
3. Prayer (Acts 2:42)
4. Evangelism (Acts 2:47)
5. Worship (Acts 2:47)
6. Benevolence (Acts 2:44-45)
7. Fellowship (Acts 2:42, 46-47)

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Acts 2:42

“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”





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What Happened to Christ's Disciples?

Disciple	Place	Martyrdom
James the Son of Alpheus	Jerusalem	Clubbed to death
Simon the Zealot	Jerusalem	Martyred
James the Son of Zebedee	Judea (Acts 12:2)	Executed
Thaddeus	Mesopotamia	Beaten to death
Peter	Babylon, Rome	Crucified upside down
Matthew	Parthia (Tehran)	Beheaded

What Happened to Christ's Disciples?

Disciple	Place	Martyrdom
John	Asia Minor, Patmos, Ephesus	Fried in boiling oil
Philip	E. Turkey	Tortured & crucified
Thomas	India	Speared
Bartholomew	India	Flayed & crucified
Andrew	Ukraine, Russia, Greece	Hanged

Tertullian

Prescription Against Heretics, 36



“...where the Apostle John was first plunged, unhurt, into boiling oil, and thence remitted to his island-exile!”





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Genesis 15:16

“Then in the fourth generation they will return here,
for the wrongdoing of the Amorite is not yet complete.”



Romans 2:5

“But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”



Genesis 6:1-3

“¹ Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. ³ Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”



Matthew 24:36-39

³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. ³⁷ For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.”



Conclusion



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Lack of Concern? (2:17–3:13)

- Paul's plan to visit (2:17-18)
- Paul's concern for their glorification (2:19-20)
- Timothy's visit (3:1-5)
- Relief at Timothy's report (3:6-10)
- Paul's prayer (3:11-13)