

## I and II Thessalonians – “He’s coming back!”

#14 in series “Words of God to You”

## I Thessalonians 4:9-10

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### 1. Author – “Paul, Silvanus [Silas] and Timothy...” [1:1a]

- Silas and Timothy are mentioned – they helped plant the Thessalonian church.

### 2. Date – probably 50-51 A.D. from Corinth.

- After being released from custody in Philippi, Paul and company went directly to Thessalonica and planted the church in the late 40’s [Acts 17:1-9].
- Persecution in Thessalonica drove him to Berea, Athens and finally Corinth, where he likely wrote both letters in the early 50’s [cf. Acts 18:5ff].

### 3. Destination – “...to the church of the Thessalonians...” [1:1b]

- Thessalonica was an important Macedonian city in the Roman Empire, located on a main highway, with a population between 100,000 – 200,000.
- Paul proclaimed Jesus in the synagogue, many believed and the church of Jesus was planted! [Acts 17:1-4 – note 17:6 – “...those who have turned the world upside down...”]
- Note I Thessalonians 2:1-20 – Paul’s heart for the people laid bare!!

### 4. Purpose – “to give encouragement, teaching and hope to the young church during persecution...”

- Timothy had been sent from Athens to encourage the Thessalonians, returned to Paul with a good report – and Paul responded with his first letter. [I Thessalonians 3:1-9]
- Central themes
  - Sexual purity – I Thess 4:1-8
  - Loving one another and an orderly life – I Thess 4:9-12 [cf. II Thess 3:6-15]
  - The return of Jesus – 4:13-5:11 [cf. II Thess 2:1-12]

### 5. Outline

- I Thessalonians [theme verse – I Thessalonians 5:9-10 – outlines the letter!]
  - “What manner of entry we had to you...” – 1:1-2:12
  - “How you turned to God from idols...” – 2:13-2:20
  - “To serve the living and true God...” – 3:1-4:12
  - “To wait for...Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come...” – 4:13-5:11
  - Conclusion – 5:12-28
- II Thessalonians
  - Thanksgiving and encouragement in persecution – 1:1-12
  - Clearing up confusion about the return of Jesus – 2:1-12
  - Instruction for living until He returns – 3:1-18

