

## 1 Thessalonians 1 New American Standard Bible

### Giving Thanks for These Believers

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers; <sup>3</sup>constantly keeping in mind your work of faith and labor of love and perseverance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, <sup>4</sup>knowing, brothers *and sisters*, beloved by God, *His* choice of you;

<sup>5</sup>for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sakes.

<sup>6</sup>You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word during great affliction with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place *the news of your* faith toward God has gone out, so that we have no need to say anything.

<sup>9</sup>For they themselves report about us as to the kind of reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is*, Jesus who rescues us from the wrath to come.

### We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

**Silas, Silvanus** lover of words.

A distinguished member and prophet of the Apostolic Church at Jerusalem

Who figures as the companion of Paul in his triumphs and trials.

### From the Book of Acts we learn that:

He was one of the chief men among the brethren and therefore of Jewish birth ([Acts 15:32](#)).

He was sent as a delegate from the Apostolic Council with Paul and Barnabas to report the Council's decision ([Acts 15:22](#)).

He was probably a Roman citizen ([Acts 16:37](#)).

His double qualification as a leading Jewish Christian and a Roman citizen eminently fitted him to take the place of Barnabas as Paul's companion ([Acts 15:40](#)).

He suffered with Paul in prison ([Acts 16:19, 25, 29](#)), joining in the prayers and praises that midnight hour resulting in the conversion of the keeper of the prison.

He was also associated with Peter, acting as bearer or scribe of Peter's first Epistle ([1 Pet. 5:12](#)).

He is probably the Silvanus who preached the Apostolic doctrine ([2 Cor. 1:19](#); see [1 Thess. 1:1](#); [2 Thess. 1:1](#)).

**Timothy** meaning "honouring God" or "honoured by God"

He was an early Christian evangelist in Ephesus, who died around the year AD 97.

Timothy was from the Lycaonian city of Lystra in Asia Minor, born of a Jewish mother who had become a Christian believer, and a Greek father.

The Apostle Paul met him during his second missionary journey and he became Paul's companion and missionary partner along with Silas.

The New Testament indicates that Timothy traveled with Paul the Apostle, who was also his mentor.

Paul entrusted him with important assignments.

He is addressed as the recipient of the First and Second Epistles to Timothy.

1. Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, you will probably have a good insight into who Paul was, but who is Timothy? Who is Silvanus?
2. They write to the church at Thessalonica as one collective voice, revealing a spirit of unity amongst the leadership team.

3. Unity in leadership is vital for stability and progress. Without it everything is undermined, even in a marriage when there is no unity between Mum and Dad uncertainties arise within the home. Guard unity it is very precious.
4. When disunity does arise it is within everyone's interest to recover what has been lost. Jesus said 'satan and fallen angels when at war with each other will be undermined'.
5. Forgiveness is how we restore unity.
6. Paul writes to the church, that is the body of believers, who have gathered as one to celebrate all they are and all they have in Christ.
7. The church is a family of believers.
8. Grace and peace that Paul gives in his opening words, are the gift of a blessing Paul wants this church to know.
9. Grace is unmerited favour, God giving what we don't have, to do what we can't do and to be what we can't be.
10. Peace is what comes when there is no turmoil, anxiety or war.
11. Giving thanks for one another regularly is very helpful in sustaining unity, it is hard to bless if you have hostility in your hearts towards each other. Jesus said 'blessed are they that persecute you'.
12. 'Making mention of you' is simply saying the name of the person in your prayers to God. It is a way of stirring your love towards that person.
13. 'Constantly' is to keep on doing it. Paul is saying, we think on your testimony of faith and good works, it fills us with joy.
14. 'Labour of love' is to serve without reward. Some people want to be acknowledged when they do things for others, but to labour out of love is to rejoice and receive love because there is an opportunity to serve and ease someone's pain.
15. 'Steadfast of hope' Paul is confident this body has got their eyes on God and his grace to sustain them in their service of God's will.
16. 'All who hope in God' will not be disappointed no matter what they face in life.
17. 'Our victory over trials' this has a lot to do with our attitude in the trial. When we know that we are in the presence of God, we will know that we can do all things through Him who strengthens us.
18. Paul declares his confidence in God's love for this body in Thessalonica and reassures them God has chosen them to be with Him.
19. Our value and self-worth comes from the assurance and love from others and when that 'other' is God Himself, you will be as bold as a lion!
20. When Paul first preached the gospel to the Thessalonians he did it with words and with power, signs and wonders. He did it with the anointing of the Holy Spirit manifestation, the Holy Spirit convicted their hearts to repent and believe in Jesus as saviour.
21. 'You know who we are', we have proved ourselves worthy of your trust. Paul is representing the family of the good shepherd's.
22. Paul says 'our example among you provoked you to make changes' you did what we did, even as we were doing what the Lord did.
23. This happened because when you heard and saw our message, you believed and were convinced.
24. You trusted the word we brought and you discovered its truth for yourselves, you became as we are.
25. Your light testimony shone from you to all those around you, they were also affected by the glory light on you.
26. 'Sound faith from you' everywhere, all heard of the faith you were living in and it was shifting the atmosphere in Thessalonica.

27. We did not need to say anything more, you were up and running the race yourselves and are taking the lead.
28. Your old ways of life in worshipping idols are behind you, you now have tasted and seen that the Lord is good.
29. God who is alive and is built on truth, not mystery or a part of the dark arts.
30. So for now we wait together for the returning of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who will return to the earth and deal with all darkness and evil corruption.
31. Jesus is coming to rescue us from judgement in order that we will share eternity with God in heaven and that starts right now on earth.