



**GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**“Getting Ready for the Second Coming”**  
**INTRODUCTION TO I THESSALONIANS**  
January 2016 Sermon Series



Author:

Paul, the apostle (**I Thessalonians 1:1**), formerly Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 8-9**) identifies himself as the author of this letter. He uses Silas (Silvanus) and Timothy to aid him with the writing. The early church unanimously accepted it as from Paul and quoted it often.

Date:

It is generally accepted that Paul wrote it around 49-51 AD in the city of Corinth. There is little doubt that this letter was one of the earliest letters that Paul wrote, and it may be the first, depending on the date of Galatians. It was written during the second missionary journey when he was accompanied by Silas (**Acts 15:22**) and just a few months after they had established the congregation in Thessalonica (**Acts 17:1-9**).

The book of Acts reveals that the missionaries reasoned with those in the synagogue for three Sabbaths before having success. They probably only stayed in Thessalonica for a few months and then went on to Berea (**Acts 17:10**), Athens (**Acts 17:15**), and eventually Corinth (**Acts 18:1**). While in Athens, Paul sent Timothy back to visit the brethren in Thessalonica and then met up with him in Corinth where he got the report and then wrote this letter.

Theme:

This letter is about preparing for the second coming of Jesus. Since Paul's stay in Thessalonica was brief he didn't have time to describe all the aspects of living a holy life and how to anticipate for the Lord's coming. The church was still struggling with immorality and weak faith at this time.

The latter part of this letter has been the subject of much study and debate. Paul, while attempting to encourage the brethren (**I Thessalonians 4:18**), apparently he opened up a “can of worms” regarding the end times and would have to clarify more in a second letter. In this first letter he tells of the resurrection of the righteous dead and the “changing” of those alive when Christ comes again (**I Thessalonians 4:13ff**). Paul does not address when this would take place, except to give the impression it would happen suddenly. He taught that Christ would come as a “thief in the night” (**I Thessalonians 5:2**) but no one knew when this would happen (**Matthew 24:36, 25:13**).

Audience:

The church of Thessalonica was the intended audience. Thessalonica was the capital of the Roman province of Macedonia. Its inhabitants were Roman citizens who were ruled by officials known as “politarchs” (**Acts 17:6-8**). Remember that Paul was called to do missions here. Aristarchus and Secundus (of Thessalonica) were believers that labored with him (**Acts 20:4, 27:2**).

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## **“Getting Ready for the Second Coming”**

### Key Verses:

**I Thessalonians 1:2, 1:5, 2:6-7, 2:12, 3:9-10, 3:13, 4:3, 4:11, 4:13-18, 5:2-6, 5:9, 5:17-19**

### Outline of Our Study:

#### **January 3, 2016**

**LESSON #1 = The Condition of the Church (I Thessalonians 1)**

A Practical Church (vs.1-4)

A Graceful Church (v. 5)

A Spiritual Church (vs. 6-7)

A Faithful Church (vs. 8-10)

#### **January 10, 2016**

**LESSON #2 = The Conduct of the Church (I Thessalonians 2)**

Integrity of Heart (vs. 1-4)

Honesty in Speech (vs. 5-9)

Maturity in Reception (vs. 10-13)

Stability in Suffering (vs. 14-20)

#### **January 17, 2016**

**LESSON #3 = The Concern for the Church (I Thessalonians 3)**

Be Encouraged, Not Tormented (vs. 1-3)

Be Strengthened, Not Tempted (vs. 4-5)

Be Delighted, Not Traumatized (vs. 6-10)

Be Established, Not Troubled (vs. 11-13)

#### **January 24, 2016**

**LESSON #4 = The Comfort of the Church (I Thessalonians 4)**

The Need for Holy Learning (vs. 1-8)

The Need for Humble Love (vs. 9-10)

The Need for Honorable Labor (vs. 11-12)

The Need for Hopeful Living (vs. 13-18)

#### **January 31, 2016**

**LESSON #5 = The Calling of the Church (I Thessalonians 5)**

Walk in the Night Light (vs. 1-8)

Walk in the New Mindset (vs. 9-11)

Walk in the Noble Way (vs. 12-22)

Walk in the Notable Calling (vs. 23-28)