

Ambassadors Sunday School Class
1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Review

1. Paul visited Thessalonica during his second missionary journey (ca. AD 49–51; Acts 17:1–9). He wrote his epistle to them from Corinth in AD 51.

B. Structure

1. First Thessalonians follows the standard form for a first-century letter: greeting (1:1), thanksgiving (1:2–4), body (1:5–5:22), and farewell (5:23–28).

II. PAUL’S GREETING

A. Paul and Silvanus and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; (1:1–2)

B. The 3 Pastors, but Paul is the inspired author.

C. The Church -(ekklēsia) emphasizes the reality of the Thessalonians’ election. (cf 1:4)

D. The Nature of the Church - Paul taught that believers do not simply believe facts about Jesus Christ, but that they are in Him. (Gal. 2:20) (Col. 3:3) (cf. 2:14; 2 Thess. 1:1)

E. The Common Greeting - summarizes his gospel message: God’s work through Christ (“grace”) brings people into a harmonious relationship with God and one another (“peace”).

F. Giving Thanks - Here they are praying daily and earnestly for their friends in Thessalonica and thanking God for the work of salvation that had been brought about in their lives.

III. THEIR PRESENT CONDITION

A. constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, (1:3)

B. A FAITH THAT WORKED

1. **constantly bearing in mind your work of faith (1:3a)**

2. A work of faith is action representative of the transforming power of regeneration (2 Cor. 5:17) (James 2:18–22, 26).

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C. A LOVE THAT LABORED

1. and labor of love (1:3b)

2. True Christians minister motivated by their love for others.
(1 Peter 1:22) (1 John 2:10)

D. A HOPE THAT ENDURED

1. and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, (1:3c)

2. All Christians have a hope in the Lord Jesus Christ—a persevering anticipation of seeing His future glory and receiving their eternal inheritance. (Titus 2:11-13) (1 Peter 1:3-7)

IV. AN UNDERSTANDING OF ELECTION

A. knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; (1:4)

B. Paul told the Thessalonians he was certain of God's choice of them (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

V. CONCLUSION - Where true faith is, it will work by love and in the patience of the blessed hope.

NEXT WEEK 8/28: Combined Sunday School Classes in the Chapel

NEXT CLASS 9/4: Verses 5-10 The wonderful message of salvation is not simply that we receive eternal life, glorious though that is, but that our lives are utterly transformed by the power of God so that we can live to his glory.