

The Book of 1 Thessalonians

I. THE REPUTATION OF THE CHURCH (1 THESSALONIANS 1).

- A. It was an energetic church (1:1-3).
- B. It was an elect church (1:4).
- C. It was an exemplary church (1:5-7).
 - 1. Paul's example to the church (1:5-6).
 - 2. Their example to the world (1:7).
- D. It was an evangelistic church (1:8).
- E. It was an expectant church (1:9-10). In these verses Paul summarizes the three spiritual stages of saved church members.
 - 1. In the past: "How ye turned to God from idols" (1:9).
 - 2. In the present: "To serve the living and true God" (1:9).
 - 3. In the future "To wait for his Son from heaven" (1:10).

II. THE REVIEW OF THE CHURCH (ch. 2-3).

In this chapter the apostle reviews those circumstances involved in the founding of the Thessalonian church.

- A. The activities of the shepherd in Thessalonica (what Paul says about himself).
 - 1. He was a suffering traveler (2:1-2).
 - 2. He was a faithful steward (2:3-6).
 - 3. He was as a gentle mother (2:7-8).
 - 4. He was a tireless laborer (2:9).
 - 5. He was a consistent example (2:10).
 - 6. He was a concerned father (2:11-12).
 - 7. He was as a homesick brother (2:17).
 - 8. He was an expectant soulwinner (2:19-20).
 - 9. He was as a missionary superintendent (3:1-5).
 - 10. He was a prayer warrior (2:13; 3:7-13).
 - a. The persistence of his prayers (2:13; 3:10).
 - b. The purpose of his prayers (3:10)
- B. The activities of the sheep in Thessalonica (what Paul says about his converts) (2:14).
- C. The activities of the serpent in Thessalonica (what Paul says about his enemies).
 - 1. The Judaizers (2:15-16).
 - 2. The devil (2:18).

III. THE REMOVAL OF THE CHURCH (ch. 4).

- A. The challenges of this removal.
 - 1. We are to know God's will (what he wants me to do) (4:3).
 - 2. We are to know God's way (how he wants me to do it).
 - a. Concerning self--purity (4:3-5).
 - b. Concerning saints--charity (4:6-10).
 - (1) The revelation of the matter (4:6, 9).
 - (2) The reasons for the matter (4:7-8).
 - c. Concerning sinners--honesty (4:11-12).
- B. The chronology of this removal (4:13-18).
 - 1. A realization (4:13).
 - 2. A repose (4:14).
 - 3. A revelation (4:15).
 - 4. A return (4:16).
 - 5. A resurrection (4:16).
 - 6. A rapture (4:17).
 - 7. A reunion (4:17).
 - 8. A reassurance (4:18).

IV. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHURCH (ch. 5).

- A. The God of purpose (what he wills for us to do) (5:1-22).
 - 1. Be watchful (5:1-8).
 - a. The action involved (5:2).
 - b. The reaction involved.
 - (1) The children of light (5:4-6, 8).
 - (2) The children of darkness (5:3, 7).
 - 2. Be helpful (5:9-11, 14).

- a. The why of the matter (5:9-10).
 - b. The who of the matter (5:11, 14).
- 3. Be merciful (5:15).
- 4. Be respectful (5:12-13).
- 5. Be joyful (5:16).
- 6. Be prayed up (5:17).
- 7. Be thankful (5:18).
- 8. Be careful (5:19-22).
 - a. Concerning the Spirit of God (5:19).
 - b. Concerning the gifts of God (5:20).
 - c. Concerning the Word of God (5:21).
 - d. Concerning my walk for God (5:22).
- B. The God of peace (what He will do for us) (5:23-28).