

Outlining a Book of The Bible

- Helps the Bible student better understand the content
- Reduces the content into easily grasped concepts
- Emphasizes the biggest ideas and thoughts
- Not concerned with the details
- There's not wrong way to outline a passage (as long as you're true to the text)
- Good outlines do not always match; they complement
- Using someone else's outline foregoes the benefit of the process

1 THESSALONIANS

OUTLINE

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (KJV)

¹ Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians *which is* in God the Father and *in* the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

³ Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

⁴ Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

⁵ For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

⁶ And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

⁷ So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.

⁸ For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

⁹ For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

¹⁰ And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

I. Fruit of Genuine Faith

A. Salutation

B. Affirmation of Genuine Faith (2-5)

i. Produces work (3)

ii. Powerful (5)

iii. Authentic (5)

C. Recognition of initial fruit and zeal (6-10)

i. Amidst affliction (6)

ii. Zealous, organized, thorough evangelism (8)

iii. Reflected Paul's manner/approach (6, 9)

iv. Repentance from idols to God (9)

v. Anticipates the coming of Christ (10)

GREAT SERMON MATERIAL!

1 Thessalonians 2:1-20 (KJV)

¹ For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

² But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

³ For our exhortation *was* not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

⁴ But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

⁵ For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God *is* witness:

⁶ Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

⁷ But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

⁸ So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

⁹ For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

¹⁰ Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

¹¹ As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,

¹² That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

¹³ For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

¹⁴ For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they *have* of the Jews:

¹⁵ Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

¹⁶ Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

¹⁷ But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.

¹⁸ Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

¹⁹ For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

²⁰ For ye are our glory and joy.

II. The Endurance of Genuine Converts

entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; for we were plain, as ye know, and were dear when we might have been burdensome.

Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor of the church; when we might have been burdensome, as ye know.

But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:

So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

13 For this we received the word of man's wisdom, which worketh a foolishness in them that believe.

14 For ye, brethren, were called of God, which in things which in the world are foolishness, we have preached in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own country, as ye have seen.

15 Who bore witness against us, saying, These men persecute them that preach of Jesus Christ.

16 Forbid them to preach of Jesus Christ, that they may be saved, to fill up their sins away: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

17 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, we desired very to have seen you, as ye also desired us: for we were afraid of our great desire, lest we should have fulfilled it.

18 Wherefore we desired to come unto you, as ye desired us: but we were hindered, as ye know.

19 For what hope have we of you, brethren, if we should have fulfilled our desire, and we should have been absent from you? For we would have been with you, that we might have ministered unto you, and we should have ministered unto you with joy, and we should have been quiet.

20 For ye are our glory and joy.

B. Received the Word of God (13-14)

i. As the Authoritative Word of God

ii. Became Followers

iii. While Suffering

C. Jews' Harsh Persecution (15-16)

i. Crucified Jesus

ii. Persecuted Apostles

iii. Forbade preaching to Gentiles

D. They are the Joy of Paul (17-20)

i. With them in Spirit

ii. Long to see them again

iii. They are Paul's hope, crown of rejoicing

in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

20 For ye are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 (KJV)

¹ Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;

² And sent **Timotheus**, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to **establish you, and to comfort you** concerning your faith:

³ **That no man should be moved by these afflictions:** for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

⁴ For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer **tribulation** even as it came to pass, and ye know.

⁵ For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the **tempter have tempted you,** and our labour be in vain.

⁶ But now when **Timotheus came from you unto us,** and brought us **good tidings** of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also *to see* you:

⁷ Therefore, brethren, **we were comforted over you in all our affliction** and distress by your faith:

⁸ For **now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord**

⁹ For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we **joy for your sakes** before our God;

¹⁰ Night and day praying exceedingly **that we might see your face** and might **perfect that which is lacking** in your faith?

¹¹ Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, **direct our way unto you.**

¹² And the Lord make you to **increase and abound in love** one toward another, and toward all *men*, even as we *do* toward you:

¹³ To the end he may **stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness** before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

III. The Steadfastness and Growth/Edification of Genuine Christians

A. Timothy send to establish, comfort them (1-5)

i. So they're not moved by afflictions

ii. So they're not moved by suffering/tribulations

iii. So they're not moved by temptations

B. Timothy Returns with Good Tidings (6-8)

i. Comforted in afflictions and distress

ii. Their Steadfastness is Paul's "life" (this is living!)

C. Paul is Joyfully desirous return in order to: (9-13)

i. Perfect that which is lacking in their faith

ii. Help them increase in love

iii. Establish their hearts in holiness anticipating Christ's Return

1 Thessalonians 4:1-18 (KJV)

¹ Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort *you* by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us **how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.**

² For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

³ For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should **abstain from fornication:**

⁴ That every one of you should know how to **possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;**

⁵ **Not in the lust** of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

⁶ That **no man** go beyond and **defraud** his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

⁷ For God hath not **called** us unto uncleanness, but **unto holiness.**

⁸ **He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God,** who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

⁹ But as touching **brotherly love** ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

¹⁰ And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye **increase more** and more;

¹¹ **And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you:**

¹² That ye may **walk honestly toward them that are without** and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

¹³ But I would **not have you to be ignorant** brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep** in Jesus will God bring with him.

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that **we which are alive and remain** unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be **caught up together** with them in the clouds, **to meet the Lord in the air:** and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Wherefore **comfort one another with these words**

1 Thessalonians 4:1-18 (KJV)

IV. The Holiness and Destiny of Christians
Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us **how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.**

2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should

abstain from fornication;

A. Practical Exhortation to walk in faith, holiness (1-12)

i. Abstain from fornication

ii. Possess vessel in honor, not in lust

iii. Defraud not

iv. Called to Holiness

v. Continue and increase in brotherly love

vi. Continue and increase in brotherly love

vii. Study to be quiet, work, eat own bread, testimony to those without

10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye **increase more** and more;

11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to **work with your own hands, as we commanded you:**

12 That ye may **walk honestly toward them that are without** and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.

13 But I would **not have you to be ignorant**, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep** in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that **we which are alive and remain** unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the not voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be **caught up together** with them in the clouds, **to meet the Lord in the air:** and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore **comfort one another with these words**

B. The Catching Away (13-18)

i. Of the dead first

ii. Of the living

iii. To meet The Lord in the Air

iv. Source of Comfort

1 Thessalonians 5:1-28 (KJV)

¹ But of the **times and the seasons**, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

² For yourselves know perfectly that the **day of the Lord** so cometh as a **thief in the night**.

³ For when **they** shall say, **Peace and safety**; then sudden destruction cometh upon **them** as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall **not escape**.

⁴ But **ye**, brethren, are **not in darkness**, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

⁵ Ye are all the **children of light**, and the children of the day: we are **not of the night**, nor of darkness.

⁶ Therefore **let us not sleep**, as *do* others; but let us **watch and be sober**.

⁷ For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

⁸ But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the **breastplate of faith and love**; and for an **helmet, the hope of salvation**.

⁹ For God hath **not appointed us to wrath**, but to **obtain salvation** by our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁰ Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

¹¹ Wherefore **comfort yourselves together**, and **edify** one another, even as also ye do.

¹² And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

¹³ And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.

¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.

¹⁵ See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.

¹⁶ Rejoice evermore.

¹⁷ Pray without ceasing.

¹⁸ In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

¹⁹ Quench not the Spirit.

²⁰ Despise not prophesyings.

²¹ Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

²² **Abstain from all appearance of evil.**

²³ And the very **God of peace sanctify you wholly**; and *I pray God* your whole **spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

²⁵ Brethren, **pray** for us.

²⁶ **Greet** all the brethren with an holy kiss.

²⁷ I charge you by the Lord that **this epistle be read unto all** the holy brethren.

²⁸ The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-28 (KJV)

V. Christian's Role, Placement, Expectation, and Behavior in the family of God

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a

A. Times and Seasons

i. Children of Darkness

- a. Theif in the night
- b. Peace, safety, sudden destruction
- c. No escape (implying Christians do have)

ii. Children of Light

- a. Not in/of darkness (not surprised)
- b. Do not sleep
- c. Watch, be sober
- d. Of the day
 - i. Breastplate of faith and love
 - ii. Helmet, hope of Salvation

e. Appointed

- i. Not to wrath
- ii. To obtain Salvation (future tense)
- f. Comfort and edify with these truths

as also ye do.

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

B. Practical Instructions and Admonitions

16 Rejoice

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

20 Despise not prophesyings.

21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

22 Abstain

23 And the whole spirit of our Lord

24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

25 Brethren, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.

27 I charge you that these things shall be read unto all the holy brethren.

28 The grace be with you. Amen.

D. Closing

i. Pray for the apostles

ii. Greet with holy kiss

iii. Read this epistle to all

iv. Grace be with you

1 THESSALONIANS OUTLINE

I. Fruit of Genuine Faith

A. Salutation

B. Affirmation of Genuine Faith (2-5)

- i. Produces work (3)
- ii. Powerful (5)
- iii. Authentic (5)

C. Recognition of initial fruit and zeal(6-10)

- i. Amidst affliction (6)
- ii. Zealous, organized, thorough evangelism (8)
- iii. Reflected Paul's manner/approach (6, 9)
- iv. Repentance from idols to God (9)
- v. Anticipates the coming of Christ (10)

II. The Endurance of Genuine Converts

A. Nature and Message of Paul's Ministry (1-12)

B. Received the Word of God (13-14)

- i. As the Authoritative Word of God
- ii. Became Followers
- iii. While Suffering

C. Jews' Harsh Persecution (15-16)

- i. Crucified Jesus
- ii. Persecuted Apostles
- iii. Forbade preaching to Gentiles

D. They are the Joy of Paul (17-20)

- i. With them in Spirit
- ii. Long to see them again
- iii. They are Paul's hope, crown of rejoicing

III. The Steadfastness and Growth/Edification of Genuine Christians

A. Timothy sent to establish, comfort them (1-5)

- i. So they're not moved by afflictions
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- i. Perfect that which is lacking in their faith
- ii. Help them increase in love
- iii. Establish their hearts in holiness anticipating Christ's Return

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A. Practical Exhortation to walk in faith, holiness (1-12)

- i. Abstain from fornication
- ii. Possess vessel in honor, not in lust
- iii. Defraud not
- iv. Called to Holiness
- v. Continue and increase in brotherly love
- vi. Continue and increase in brotherly love
- vii. Study to be quiet, work, eat own bread, testimony to those without

B. The Catching Away (13-18)

- i. Of the dead first
- ii. Of the living
- iii. To meet The Lord in the Air
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V. Christian's Role, Placement, Expectation, and Behavior in the family of God

A. Times and Seasons

- i. Children of Darkness
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 - e. Appointed
 - i. Not to wrath
 - ii. To obtain Salvation (future tense)
 - f. Comfort and edify with these truths

B. Practical Instructions and Admonitions

C. God will sanctify you wholly, to preserve your

- i. Spirit
- ii. Soul
- iii. Body

D. Closing

- i. Pray for the apostles
- ii. Greet with holy kiss
- iii. Read this epistle to all
- iv. Grace be with you

COMPANION BIBLE OUTLINE

THE STRUCTURE OF THE EPISTLE AS A WHOLE.

[Click to follow Link.](#)

1:1.	EPISTOLARY. INTRODUCTION.
1:2—3:10.	THANKSGIVING. NARRATION. APPEAL.
3:11—13.	PRAYER.
4:1—5:22.	EXHORTATION. “concerning them which are <i>falling asleep</i> ” (4:13-17).*
5:23—25.	PRAYER.
5:26—28.	EPISTOLARY. CONCLUSION.

1 THESSALONIANS AND THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ And to **wait for his Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 (KJV)

¹⁹ For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the **presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming**?

1 Thessalonians 3:13 (KJV)

¹³ To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, **at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16 (KJV)

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain **unto the coming of the Lord** shall not prevent them which are asleep.

¹⁶ For the **Lord himself shall descend from heaven** with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (KJV)

²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless **unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

I was pleasantly startled when Chuck Missler pointed out that every chapter of 1 Thessalonians mentions the Second Coming of Christ (something I was disappointed to have overlooked).

Such a refrain (especially such an important one) can have a tremendous affect on the theme of the book and on the way in which it outlined and interpreted. Repeated ideas can often turn out to be the motif of a book or passage.

J. VERNON McGEE'S OUTLINES

- I. **The Christian's Attitude toward the Return of Christ, [1Thess. 1](#)**
to serve... to wait... [vv. 9-10](#)
- II. **The Christian's Reward at the Return of Christ, [1Thess. 2](#)**
- III. **The Christian's Life and the Return of Christ, [1Thess. 3:1 through 1Thess. 4:12](#)**
- IV. **The Christian's Death and the Return of Christ, [1Thess. 4:13-18](#)**
- V. **The Christian's Actions in View of the Return of Christ, [1Thess. 5](#)**
Note twenty-two specific commands to Christians, beginning at [v. 11](#)

J. VERNON McGEE'S OUTLINES

- I. **Coming of Christ Is an Inspiring Hope, [1Thess. 1](#)**
 - A. Introduction, [1Thess. 1:1-4](#)
 - B. Gospel Received in Much Assurance and Much Affliction, [1Thess. 1:5-7](#)
 - C. Gospel Results: Turned from Idols to God; Wait for Coming of Christ, [1Thess. 1:8-10](#)
- II. **Coming of Christ Is a Working Hope, [1Thess. 2](#)**
 - A. Motive and Method of a True Witness for Christ, [1Thess. 2:1-6](#)
 - B. Mother Side of the Apostle's Ministry (Comfort), [1Thess. 2:7-9](#)
 - C. Father Side of the Apostle's Ministry (Charge), [1Thess. 2:10-13](#)
 - D. Brother Side of the Apostle's Ministry (Challenge), [1Thess. 2:14-16](#)
 - E. Reward of a True Witness for Christ, [1Thess. 2:17-20](#)
- III. **Coming of Christ Is a Purifying Hope, [1Thess. 3:1 through 1Thess. 4:12](#)**

Sanctification

 - A. Timothy Brings Good Report of Thessalonians, [1Thess. 3:1-8](#)
 - B. Paul Urges Thessalonians to Continue to Grow in Faith, [1Thess. 3:9-13](#)
 - C. How Believers Are to Walk, [1Thess. 4:1-12](#)
- IV. **Coming of Christ Is a Comforting Hope, [1Thess. 4:13-18](#)**

What death means to a Christian; what the Rapture means to the church
- V. **Coming of Christ Is a Rousing Hope, [1Thess. 5](#)**

Leads to action; dead believers are asleep in Jesus; living believers are awake for Jesus

 - A. Call to Be Awake and Alert in View of Christ's Coming, [1Thess. 5:1-10](#)
 - B. Commandments for Christians, [1Thess. 5:11-28](#)