

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Introduction: Likely Paul's first Spirit-inspired letter, 1 Thessalonians deals with very _____ doctrines every church needs to know.

I. The Background

- A. Thessalonica was strategically _____ in the Roman empire as a capital of Macedonia.
- B. The population of the city was around _____ people.
- C. God _____ Paul to this region (Acts 16:6-10).
- D. Thessalonica was the second place in _____ to receive the gospel.
- E. After being released from the Philippian _____, Paul and Silas went to Thessalonica (Acts 16).
- F. Paul first visited the synagogue for _____ Sabbath days (Acts 17:1-4).
- G. He caused no small stir in the _____ (Acts 17:5-9).
- H. For his _____, Paul left the city (Acts 17:10).
- I. Timothy was then sent to _____ up on the church (1 Thess. 3:6-8).
- J. The church did face _____ for their faith.

II. The Date

- A. This letter was probably written around A.D. _____.
- B. Paul wrote this letter from Corinth during his _____ month stay there.

III. Theme and Purpose

- A. The key word of this epistle is _____.
- B. Key verses are 3:12-13 and 4:16-18.
- C. All five chapters end with a reference to the _____ of Christ.
- D. Many members of the church felt they _____ the rapture.
- E. Paul taught this _____ church about eschatology.
- F. This letter bares Paul's heart and real _____ for their spiritual well-being.

IV. Paul's Greeting (1 Thess. 1:1)

- A. Paul did not serve the Lord _____.
- B. Grace is God's _____ favor in every aspect of our lives.
- C. Peace is the unruffled _____ which defeats the crazy circumstances of life.

Conclusion: "I think there is a lot of upside down theology today. We need to make a distinction between our being caught up and His coming down" (McGee).