

Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians



Apostle Paul (~ 5 – 67 A.D.)
By Andrei Rublev (1410)

Waiting for Jesus Introduction



Waiting for Jesus Introduction

Thessalonica

Waiting for Jesus Introduction

Thessalonica

- Founded around 315 B.C., named after the half-sister of Alexander the Great.
- Capital of Greek Macedonia.
- Oldest Jewish population in mainland Europe.

Waiting for Jesus Introduction

Thessalonica

- City today has 1,000,000 people – 2nd largest in Greece
- Home to Aristotle University with 40,000 students.
- The philosopher was born 30 miles away.
- Nicknamed “the co-capital” for its historic importance.

Waiting for Jesus Introduction



Waiting for Jesus Introduction



Waiting for Jesus Introduction

- Read **Acts 17:1-14** for background.

Waiting for Jesus Introduction



Waiting for Jesus Introduction

- Paul spent less than a month in Thessalonica before he suddenly had to leave (**Acts 17:1-10**).
- Likely the second epistle written by Paul, after Galatians.
- In some ways it is a model church (**1:8-10**).
- This church also suffered for their faith (**1:6, 2:14**).

Waiting for Jesus Introduction

2 Corinthians 8:1-3 (ESV)

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, ² for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. ³ For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord.

Waiting for Jesus Introduction

An impressive depth of teaching:

- Topics include perseverance, love and holiness.
- Most prominent is eschatology – the study of last things.
- All five chapters end with a reference to Christ's return.

Waiting for Jesus Introduction

Things to look for:

- An exemplary church.
- Faith leads to radical change.
- Affliction is to be expected.
- God's will.
- Christian behavior.
- Christ's Return.

Waiting for Jesus Introduction

Keep in mind as we read:

- Most were from a pagan background.
- It was now less than a year since the church got started.

Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 1



Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 1

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 (ESV)

⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 2



Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 2

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 3



Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 3

1 Thessalonians 3:4 (ESV)

For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know.

Waiting for Jesus
1 Thessalonians 4



Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 4

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 13-14 (ESV)

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality ...

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 5



Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 5

1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle [disorderly, undisciplined], encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 5

Bible Trivia: What is the shortest verse in the Bible in the original languages?

Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 5

Bible Trivia: What is the shortest verse in the Bible in the original languages?

John 11:35 ἔδάκρυσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς (16 letters) Jesus wept.

- This answer was popularized because of the KJV.

Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 5

Bible Trivia: What is the shortest verse in the Bible in the original languages?

John 11:35 ἔδάκρυσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς (16 letters) Jesus wept.

1 Thess. 5:16 πάντοτε χαίρετε (14 letters) Rejoice always.

Waiting for Jesus

1 Thessalonians 5

Bible Trivia: What is the shortest verse in the Bible in the original languages?

- There are others shorter yet, but it depends on the early Greek or Hebrew version used.
- Remember chapter and verse were later additions.
- Also Hebrew contains no vowels, making for shorter words.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions



Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

- Let's look at key passages once more and review the lesson(s) we can learn from each.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 (ESV)

⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV)

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

1 Thessalonians 3:4 (ESV)

For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

1 Thessalonians 4:3, 13-14 (ESV)

³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality ...

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle [disorderly, undisciplined], encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

- We'll now end with all of the verses that look forward to Christ's return.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you 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, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 (ESV)

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (ESV)

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Waiting for Jesus Conclusions

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (ESV)

²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.