

# CONTENTS

<i>General Editors' Preface</i>	7
<i>Author's Preface</i>	9
<i>Abbreviations</i>	11
<i>Bibliography</i>	17
<i>Table of Sidebars</i>	28
INTRODUCTION TO FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS	29
A. Thessalonica: The City	29
B. Religion in Thessalonica	30
C. The Founding of the Church and the Troubles at Thessalonica	32
D. After the Apostles Left Thessalonica	35
E. The Writing of 1 Thessalonians: Authorship, Date, and Integrity	35
F. The Literary Structure of 1 Thessalonians: The Outline, Literary Structure, and Genre of 1 Thessalonians	36
G. The Contents of 1 Thessalonians	37
H. The Writing of 2 Thessalonians: Authorship	38
I. The Occasion and Date of 2 Thessalonians	40
J. The Genre of 2 Thessalonians	41
K. The Contents of 2 Thessalonians	41
L. Theological Themes of 1 and 2 Thessalonians	41
1. Theological Emphases in 1 Thessalonians	42
2. Theological Emphases in 2 Thessalonians	44
COMMENTARY	47
I THESSALONIANS	47
I. Greeting: 1 Thessalonians 1:1	47
II. Thanksgiving: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	53
A. Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith, Love, and Hope (1:2-3)	54
B. Assurance of the Thessalonians' Salvation (1:4-5)	57
C. Thanksgiving for Lives that Demonstrate Faith, Hope, and Love (1:6-10)	62
III. Paul and the Thessalonians: 1 Thessalonians 2:1—3:10	73
A. The Apostles as Models of Holy Love (2:1-12)	73
B. Faithful Imitation and Unfaithful Persecution (2:13-16)	85
C. Separated but Not Divided (2:17—3:10)	97

1. Separation Anxiety (2:17-20)	98
2. Why Paul Sent Timothy (3:1-5)	101
3. Timothy's Report on the Thessalonians (3:6-10)	104
IV. Second Prayer: I Thessalonians 3:11-13	109
V. Exhortations and Encouragement: I Thessalonians 4:1—5:11	117
A. Ethical Instructions (4:1-12)	118
1. Introduction (4:1-2)	120
2. Sanctification and Sexuality (4:3-8)	121
3. Sanctified Love (4:9-12)	132
B. Encouragement from the Parousia (4:13—5:11)	139
1. The Dead in Christ Shall Rise (4:13-18)	139
2. Be Ready for the Day of the Lord (5:1-11)	151
VI. The Community of Christ: I Thessalonians 5:12-24	163
A. Respect Those Doing Ministry (5:12-13)	164
B. Caring for Difficult People (5:14-15)	166
C. Preserve a Life of Worship (5:16-22)	169
D. Paul's Pastoral Prayer (5:23-24)	175
VII. Epistolary Closing: I Thessalonians 5:25-28	187
2 THESSALONIANS	193
I. Greeting: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2	193
II. Thanksgiving and Excursus on Divine Justice: 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12	195
A. Thanksgiving (1:3-4)	196
B. An Excursus on Suffering and God's Justice (1:5-10)	197
C. Prayer (1:11-12)	208
III. About the Parousia and the Man of Lawlessness: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12	215
IV. The Thessalonians Stand in Contrast to the Deceived: Thanksgiving, Exhortation, Prayer: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17	235
A. Paul's Confidence in Thessalonian Christians (2:13-15)	236
B. Prayer (2:16-17)	239
V. Request for Prayer: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5	243
VI. Exhortation: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15	251
VII. Closing: 2 Thessalonians 3:16-18	265
A. Prayer-Wish (3:16)	266
B. Autographic Conclusion (3:17)	267
C. Benediction (3:18)	268