

Apostle Paul Epistles Doctrine

Book Of 1 Thessalonians



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Paul's explanations in his epistles are crucial for us today because they lay the **doctrinal foundation of the Christian faith** and provide **practical instructions for daily living**. Here's why his teachings remain relevant:

1. They Explain the Gospel of Grace

Paul's epistles emphasize **justification by faith** (Romans 3:28, Galatians 2:16) and the **sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice** (Colossians 2:13-14). This message is essential in a world where many still seek salvation through works or religious rituals.

2. They Teach How to Live as Christians

Paul provides guidance on:

- **Sanctification** – Living a holy life (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)
- **Love and Unity** – Bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2-3)
- **Spiritual Warfare** – Standing against the enemy (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- **Christian Conduct** – Walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25)

3. They Defend Against False Doctrines

Paul warns about false teachers (Galatians 1:6-9, 2 Timothy 4:3-4) and emphasizes the need to stand firm in sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). This remains critical today as many distort the gospel.

4. They Emphasize the Church's Role

Paul explains the **body of Christ** (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), the **role of pastors and elders** (1 Timothy 3:1-7), and the **importance of fellowship** (Hebrews 10:25). His teachings help believers understand how to function within the church.

5. They Give Us Hope for Christ's Return

Paul's writings on the **Second Coming of Christ** (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58) provide hope in troubled times, reminding believers of their future resurrection and eternal life with Christ.

Conclusion

Paul's explanations are essential today because they teach us **who we are in Christ, how to live by faith, how to resist falsehood, and how to prepare for Christ's return**. His epistles continue to **equip, encourage, and establish believers** in the truth of God's Word.

Elder W H Moody

**Doctrine in 1 Thessalonians 1**

1 Thessalonians 1 is the opening of Paul's letter to the church in Thessalonica. It highlights **election, the power of the gospel, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the return of Christ**. Paul commends the believers for their faith, love, and hope, setting a foundation for Christian doctrine and living.

**1. The Doctrine of Election (1 Thessalonians 1:4-5)**

- "Knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God." (v.4)
- "For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit, and in much assurance." (v.5)

****Key Doctrines:****

- **Election (God's Choosing)** – Salvation is initiated by God, and He chooses people for Himself (v.4).
- **The Gospel's Power** – The gospel is not just words, but it comes with **spiritual power and conviction** (v.5).
- **The Holy Spirit's Role in Salvation** – The Spirit works in people's hearts, bringing them to faith and assurance (v.5).

**2. The Doctrine of Imitation and Discipleship (1 Thessalonians 1:6-7)**

- "And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit." (v.6)
- "So that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe." (v.7)

****Key Doctrines:****

- **Discipleship and Imitation** – New believers grow in faith by following **godly examples** (v.6).
- **Joy in Suffering** – The Holy Spirit gives joy **even in trials and persecution** (v.6).
- **Christian Witness** – A strong faith influences others and sets an example (v.7).

**3. The Doctrine of True Conversion (1 Thessalonians 1:8-10)**

- "For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place." (v.8)
- "And how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." (v.9)
- "And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come." (v.10)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Evangelism and Missions**** – True faith leads to ****spreading the gospel**** (v.8).
- ****Repentance and Transformation**** – Salvation involves ****turning from idols (sin) to serve God**** (v.9).
- ****The Second Coming of Christ**** – Believers should ****expect and wait for Jesus' return**** (v.10).
- ****Deliverance from God's Wrath**** – Jesus ****saves us from coming judgment****, confirming the doctrine of eternal security (v.10).

**Summary of Doctrines in 1 Thessalonians 1**

1. ****Election**** – Salvation is initiated by God (v.4).
2. ****Power of the Gospel**** – The Holy Spirit works through the gospel (v.5).
3. ****Discipleship and Imitation**** – Believers grow by following godly examples (v.6).
4. ****Joy in Suffering**** – The Holy Spirit gives strength in trials (v.6).
5. ****Christian Witness**** – A strong faith influences others (v.7-8).
6. ****True Conversion**** – Faith involves turning from sin to God (v.9).
7. ****The Return of Christ**** – Jesus will come again to deliver believers (v.10).

**Main Message:**

****Faith, love, and hope in Christ produce a transformed life that spreads the gospel, endures trials, and eagerly waits for Jesus' return.****

****Doctrine in 1 Thessalonians 2****

In 1 Thessalonians 2, Paul defends his ministry, emphasizing the ****purity of his message, his selfless love for the believers, and their perseverance under persecution****. This chapter teaches important doctrines about ****gospel ministry, suffering for Christ, and God's Word as divine truth****.

****1. The Doctrine of Boldness in Gospel Ministry (1 Thessalonians 2:1-2)****

- "For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain." (v.1)
- "But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict." (v.2)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Perseverance in Ministry**** – Paul and his team continued preaching ****despite persecution**** (v.2).
- ****Boldness from God**** – True ministers are ****empowered by God**** to speak the truth, even in opposition (v.2).

****2. The Doctrine of Pure Motives in Ministry (1 Thessalonians 2:3-6)****

- "For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit." (v.3)
- "But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts." (v.4)
- "Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others." (v.6)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Truthful and Pure Teaching**** – The gospel is not based on deception or personal gain (v.3).
- ****Ministry is a Stewardship**** – God entrusts the gospel to faithful servants (v.4).
- ****Pleasing God Over Man**** – A true minister seeks ****God's approval, not human praise**** (v.4, 6).

**3. The Doctrine of Loving and Sacrificial Ministry (1 Thessalonians 2:7-12)**

- "But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children." (v.7)
- "We were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us." (v.8)
- "As you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children." (v.11)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Spiritual Leadership as Parenting**** – Ministers should care for believers ****like a loving mother**** (v.7) and ****a guiding father**** (v.11).
- ****Sacrificial Love in Ministry**** – True gospel workers give their ****lives**** for the people they serve (v.8).
- ****Encouragement and Exhortation**** – Spiritual leaders ****encourage, correct, and instruct**** believers (v.11).

**4. The Doctrine of God's Word as Divine Truth (1 Thessalonians 2:13)**

- "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God." (v.13)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****The Bible is God's Word**** – Scripture is not human wisdom, but ****divine revelation**** (v.13).
- ****The Power of God's Word**** – God's Word ****works effectively**** in those who believe (v.13).

**5. The Doctrine of Suffering for the Gospel (1 Thessalonians 2:14-16)**

- "For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen just as they did from the Judeans." (v.14)
- "Who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us." (v.15)
- "But wrath has come upon them to the uttermost." (v.16)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Persecution is Expected**** – True believers ****will suffer**** for their faith (v.14).
- ****Opposition to the Gospel**** – Many will reject Christ, just as they rejected the prophets (v.15).
- ****Divine Judgment on the Wicked**** – Those who reject God's truth face ****His wrath**** (v.16).

**6. The Doctrine of Eternal Joy in Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:17-20)**

- "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?" (v.19)
- "For you are our glory and joy." (v.20)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Eternal Rewards for Ministry**** – Believers are the ****joy and crown**** of faithful servants (v.19).
- ****The Second Coming of Christ**** – Paul points to ****Christ's return**** as the great hope (v.19).

**Summary of Doctrines in 1 Thessalonians 2**

1. ****Boldness in Ministry**** – Preach the gospel despite opposition (v.1-2).
2. ****Pure Motives in Ministry**** – Serve for God's glory, not human praise (v.3-6).
3. ****Loving and Sacrificial Leadership**** – A true minister ****nurtures**** and ****guides**** believers (v.7-12).
4. ****The Bible as God's Word**** – Scripture is ****divine truth, not human wisdom**** (v.13).
5. ****Suffering for Christ**** – Persecution is a sign of true faith (v.14-16).
6. ****Eternal Joy in Christ's Return**** – The ****reward of ministry**** is seeing believers in eternity (v.19-20).

**Main Message:**

****Faithful ministry is marked by boldness, purity, sacrificial love, and perseverance through suffering, with the hope of Christ's return.****

**Doctrine in 1 Thessalonians 3**

In 1 Thessalonians 3, Paul expresses his deep concern for the Thessalonian believers, emphasizing the importance of **faithfulness in trials, encouragement through Christian fellowship, and steadfastness in holiness as we await Christ's return**. This chapter highlights the doctrines of **spiritual endurance, Christian love, and sanctification**.

**1. The Doctrine of Strengthening the Faith of Believers (1 Thessalonians 3:1-5)**

- "Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith." (v.1-2)
- "That no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this." (v.3)

****Key Doctrines:****

- **Strengthening the Faith of Others** – Paul sends Timothy to **encourage and build up** the Thessalonians in their faith (v.2).
- **Suffering is Part of the Christian Life** – Believers are **appointed** to face trials for Christ (v.3).
- **Guarding Against Spiritual Failure** – Paul was concerned that the Thessalonians might fall away due to persecution (v.5).

**2. The Doctrine of Christian Encouragement and Joy in Others' Faith (1 Thessalonians 3:6-10)**

- "But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you." (v.6)
- "For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord." (v.8)
- "Night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith." (v.10)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Encouragement Through Christian Fellowship**** – The faith of others brings ****joy and strength**** to fellow believers (v.6-8).
- ****Spiritual Stability Brings Life**** – Paul says, “We live” when others ****stand firm**** in Christ (v.8).
- ****Discipleship is a Continuous Process**** – Paul desires to help them grow in ****what is lacking**** in their faith (v.10).

**3. The Doctrine of Abounding Love and Holiness (1 Thessalonians 3:11-13)**

- "And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you." (v.12)
- "So that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints." (v.13)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Christian Love Should Increase**** – True faith leads to ****abounding love**** for both believers and non-believers (v.12).
- ****Holiness Prepares Us for Christ’s Return**** – God establishes believers ****blameless in holiness**** as they await Christ’s coming (v.13).
- ****The Second Coming of Christ**** – Paul points to ****Christ’s return with His saints**** as motivation for holiness (v.13).

**Summary of Doctrines in 1 Thessalonians 3**

1. ****Faith Must Be Strengthened**** – Encouraging and establishing believers is necessary for their perseverance (v.1-5).
2. ****Trials Are Appointed by God**** – Suffering is a natural part of the Christian journey (v.3).
3. ****Christian Fellowship Brings Encouragement**** – Believers find ****joy and strength**** in one another’s faith (v.6-10).
4. ****Love Must Abound**** – Christian love should grow ****continually**** (v.12).
5. ****Holiness Prepares Us for Christ’s Coming**** – God works in believers to make them ****blameless in holiness**** before Jesus returns (v.13).

**Main Message:** ****Christians must strengthen one another in faith, stand firm in trials, abound in love, and pursue holiness as they await the return of Jesus Christ.****

**Doctrine in 1 Thessalonians 4**

In 1 Thessalonians 4, Paul provides **practical instructions on holy living, brotherly love, and the hope of Christ's return**. The key doctrines in this chapter focus on **sanctification, Christian conduct, love, and the resurrection of believers at the Second Coming of Christ (the Rapture)**.

**1. The Doctrine of Sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)**

- "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality" (v.3).
- "For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness" (v.7).

****Key Doctrines:****

- **Sanctification is God's Will** – God's desire is that every believer grows in holiness (v.3).
- **Purity and Holiness in Conduct** – Christians are called to abstain from **sexual immorality** (v.3-5).
- **Rejecting Holiness is Rejecting God** – Those who reject purity and holiness are rejecting **God's Spirit** (v.8).

**2. The Doctrine of Brotherly Love and Christian Living (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12)**

- "But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another" (v.9).
- "That you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you" (v.11).

****Key Doctrines:****

- **God Teaches Us to Love** – Love for one another is a natural outflow of **knowing God** (v.9).
- **A Quiet, Respectable Life** – Christians should live **peacefully, work hard, and avoid unnecessary conflict** (v.11).
- **Being a Good Witness** – Living honorably among non-believers glorifies God and prevents unnecessary dependence on others (v.12).

**3. The Doctrine of the Resurrection and Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)**

- "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first." (v.16)
- "Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord." (v.17)
- "Therefore comfort one another with these words." (v.18)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Believers Who Die Are Not Lost**** – Christians who die are only ****asleep in Christ**** and will be resurrected (v.13-14).
- ****Christ Will Return Personally**** – Jesus ****Himself**** will return with a ****shout**, the voice of an archangel, and the trumpet of God****** (v.16).
- ****The Dead in Christ Rise First**** – Those who have died ****in Christ**** will rise before living believers are taken up (v.16).
- ****The Rapture of Living Believers**** – Those alive at Christ's return will be ****caught up (Greek: harpazo)**** to meet Him in the air (v.17).
- ****Eternal Union with Christ**** – Once with Christ, believers will ****always**** be with Him (v.17).
- ****Encouragement Through This Hope**** – The promise of Christ's return should bring ****comfort**** to believers (v.18).

**Summary of Doctrines in 1 Thessalonians 4**

1. ****Sanctification is God's Will**** – Believers must ****abstain from sin**** and live in holiness (v.3-8).
2. ****Christian Love is God-Taught**** – Love should naturally flow from a transformed life (v.9-10).
3. ****Christians Should Live Respectably**** – A quiet, hardworking life ****glorifies God**** and maintains a good witness (v.11-12).
4. ****Hope in the Resurrection and Rapture**** – Jesus will ****return****, the dead in Christ will rise, and living believers will be caught up with Him (v.13-17).
5. ****The Second Coming Brings Comfort**** – The promise of being with Christ forever ****encourages believers**** (v.18).

**Main Message:**

****Believers are called to live in holiness, love one another, and remain hopeful in Christ's return, knowing that they will be raised to eternal life with Him.****

****Doctrine in 1 Thessalonians 5****

In 1 Thessalonians 5, Paul concludes his letter with ****teaching on the Day of the Lord, Christian vigilance, holy living, and final exhortations for the church****. The key doctrines include ****the Second Coming of Christ, spiritual watchfulness, sanctification, and the responsibilities of believers in the body of Christ****.

****1. The Doctrine of the Day of the Lord (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)****

- "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night." (v.2)
- "For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape." (v.3)
- "But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief." (v.4)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****The Suddenness of Christ's Return**** – The "Day of the Lord" (the time of divine judgment) will come ****unexpectedly**** like a thief in the night (v.2).
- ****False Security of the World**** – The ungodly will believe they are safe, but sudden destruction will come upon them (v.3).
- ****Believers are Children of Light**** – Christians are not in darkness and should live in readiness for Christ's return (v.4-5).
- ****Spiritual Watchfulness**** – Believers must remain ****sober and vigilant**** (v.6-8).
- ****Salvation and Eternal Security**** – God has ****appointed believers to salvation****, not wrath (v.9-10).
- ****Encouraging One Another**** – The doctrine of Christ's return should bring comfort and ****encouragement**** to believers (v.11).

****2. The Doctrine of Christian Conduct and Responsibilities (1 Thessalonians 5:12-22)****

- "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (v.16-18)
- "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil." (v.19-22)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Respect for Spiritual Leaders**** – Believers should recognize and respect those who labor in the ministry (v.12-13).
- ****Encouraging and Correcting Others**** – The church should ****warn the unruly, comfort the fainthearted, and support the weak**** (v.14).
- ****Avoiding Revenge, Promoting Goodness**** – Christians should ****not repay evil for evil**** but always pursue good (v.15).
- ****A Lifestyle of Joy, Prayer, and Gratitude**** – Paul instructs believers to ****rejoice always, pray continually, and be thankful**** in all circumstances (v.16-18).
- ****Spiritual Discernment**** – Christians should not quench the work of the ****Holy Spirit****, despise prophecies, but test everything and hold on to truth (v.19-21).
- ****Separation from Evil**** – Believers must ****abstain from every form of evil**** (v.22).

**3. The Doctrine of Sanctification and Final Blessing (1 Thessalonians 5:23-28)**

- "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (v.23)
- "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." (v.24)

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Complete Sanctification**** – God's work in believers extends to ****spirit, soul, and body****, preparing them for Christ's return (v.23).
- ****God's Faithfulness**** – The promise of sanctification is rooted in God's ****faithfulness to complete His work**** (v.24).
- ****Intercessory Prayer and Fellowship**** – Paul emphasizes ****praying for one another and greeting fellow believers**** (v.25-26).
- ****The Authority of God's Word**** – Paul commands that his letter be ****read to all the brethren****, signifying its divine authority (v.27).

**Summary of Doctrines in 1 Thessalonians 5**

1. ****The Day of the Lord Will Come Unexpectedly**** – Christ's return will be sudden and catch the world by surprise (v.1-3).
2. ****Believers Must Stay Spiritually Awake**** – Christians are called to live in light, be sober, and put on the armor of faith and love (v.4-8).
3. ****God Has Appointed Believers for Salvation, Not Wrath**** – Christians are destined for eternal life, not destruction (v.9-10).
4. ****The Church Should Encourage and Strengthen One Another**** – Mutual edification is a command for all believers (v.11, 14-15).
5. ****Christian Life is Marked by Joy, Prayer, and Gratitude**** – A God-honoring life includes ****constant joy, prayer, and thanksgiving**** (v.16-18).
6. ****Discernment is Needed in Spiritual Matters**** – Believers must not ****quench the Spirit**** but should test everything against God's truth (v.19-22).
7. ****Sanctification is God's Work**** – God Himself sanctifies believers and preserves them for Christ's return (v.23-24).

**Main Message:**

****Christians should live in readiness for Christ's return, walk in holiness, encourage one another, and trust in God's faithfulness to complete His work in them.****