



Introduction

Despite the problems, Paul is encouraged by the believers in Thessalonica.



Questions

1. How did Paul give the Thessalonians the Good News that God had entrusted to him?
2. Why does Paul thank God without ceasing?
3. In what way were the Thessalonians like the brothers in Judea?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 7** Despite having had problems in Philippi, Paul was keen to give the Thessalonians the Good News of God gently without any hidden motives
- **v 8 to 13** Because of his love for them, Paul worked so that he would not be a financial burden to them while preaching the Good News of God. Like a father talking to his children, Paul wanted them to understand that his message was from God and not men
- **v 14 to 18** Like many other believers, they suffered at the hand of their own countrymen. Paul wanted to come and see them, but opposition from what he calls Satan (see theme) prevented this
- **v 19 and 20** He reminds them of his hope that they will all meet in the presence of Jesus at his coming

Timeline 60 AD (see below)



Theme

Satan - Bible facts

Satan simply means an adversary or one who opposes. In most Bible versions where the word Satan occurs, sometimes it is left as Satan and other times words like adversary are used. A selection of verses showing what the Bible tells us about Satan.

The first time the word occurs, it is referring to an angel of God:

Numbers 22 verse 22

The second time the word occurs, it is referring to David:

1 Samuel 29 verse 4

Satan sometimes refers to motives that are opposed to God.

Two examples are:

Judas Iscariot when he betrayed Jesus:

Luke 22 verses 3 and 4

Two early believers who lied about the price of some land they had sold:

Acts 5 verses 1 to 4



There are several other places where the word is used of people. A couple of examples are:

1 Kings 5 verse 4, 11 verse 14

We see that the word Satan is used of God himself if we compare the two records of king David numbering Israel:

1 Chronicles 21 verse 1

2 Samuel 24 verse 1

A Satan who can influence God and is given power by God is involved in Job's sufferings:

Job 2 verses 3 to 6

Satan tempts the Lord Jesus Christ:

Mark 1 verse 13

Jesus calls the apostle Peter a Satan when he tries to oppose him:

Mark 8 verses 31 to 33

When 70 followers of Jesus tell him about their recent preaching and healing campaign, Jesus says this is like Satan falling from heaven:

Luke 10 verses 17 to 20

Satan will shortly be crushed under the feet of the Roman believers:

Romans 16 verse 20

Satan stops Paul from coming to the Thessalonian believers:

1 Thessalonians 2 verse 18

The above verses give us the following information:

- Satans can be:
 - an angel of God
 - people
 - God Himself
 - motives and intents opposed to God
- A Satan influenced God and was given God's power
- A Satan tempted Jesus Christ
- Successful preaching is said by Jesus Christ to be Satan falling from heaven
- Satan was in Judas Iscariot when he betrayed Jesus
- Satan would be crushed under the feet of the Roman believers
- A Satan stopped Paul from coming to the Thessalonian believers

Conclusion

Satan refers to powers, people, motives or influences that oppose.



Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 4 to 6, Q 2: v 13, Q 3: v 14

Bible timeline

