

# Listening Guide

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## **I. Introduction**

[1] On which missionary journey did Paul plant the Thessalonian church?

[2] When did he write 1 Thessalonians?

[3] Where was Paul when he wrote 1 Thessalonians?

## **II. Books of 1 and 2 Thessalonians**

[4] What were the citizens of Thessalonica like?

[5] How long was Paul in Thessalonica?

[6] Were members of the church in Thessalonica wealthy or were they more like the people in the Galatian church?

### **A. Eschatological Issues**

[7] What does the doctrine of eschatology deal with?

[8] What does the word *parousia* refer to?

[9] How could we simply summarize Paul's theological message in 1 Thessalonians?

[10] What teaching do we find in the middle of 2 Thessalonians 2?

### **B. Contents**

[11] According to the early verses of 1 Thessalonians, what kind of church was the Thessalonian church?

[12] After reading 1 Thessalonians 1:7–8, how would you describe the Thessalonian church?

[13] What, according to 1 Thessalonians 2:13, was the key to the Thessalonians' rapid growth as Christians?

### **C. Outline of 1 Thessalonians**

[14] Complete: 1 Thessalonians' outline.

I.

II.

III.

IV.

### **D. Theology of 1 Thessalonians**

[15] How did Paul describe his relationship to the Thessalonians?

**[16]** What did Paul say about the “rapture” in chapter 4?

**[17]** How many historical “schemes of understanding” are there about the rapture’s timing?

**[18]** In fairness to Paul, what did he actually say about the tribulation in 1 Thessalonians 4?

**[19]** What did Dr. Blomberg say is a better metaphor for understanding the term “being caught up to meet the Lord in the air” than the metaphor of going up into heaven?

**[20]** What danger must the church avoid as we attempt to understand these different views of the rapture and the tribulation?

### **E. Outline of 2 Thessalonians**

**[21]** Why did Paul have to pen 2 Thessalonians so quickly after 1 Thessalonians?

[22] Complete the outline of 2 Thessalonians.

I.

II.

III.

**F. Theology of 2 Thessalonians**

[23] What is the first sign found in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 that precedes Christ's return?

[24] What term did Paul coin to refer to such an individual?

[25] What did Paul say in 2 Thessalonians 3:10 about Christians who didn't work?

[26] How can we have a good eschatological balance about the complex issues related to Christ's return?

## **II. Introduction to the First Epistle to the Corinthians**

**[27]** What was the moral condition in Corinth?

**[28]** How long had Paul spent in Corinth?

**[29]** What was the Corinthian church like?

**[30]** When did Paul write 1 Corinthians?

### **A. Response to Questions**

**[31]** What is 1 Corinthians' two-part structure?

I. (chapters 1–6)

II. (chapters 7–16)

## **B. Theology of 1 Corinthians**

**[32]** What issue did Paul address in chapters 1–4 that is behind “all of the issues that follow throughout the letter”?

**[33]** What is the first issue Paul addressed after the conventional introduction and thanksgiving?

**[34]** What foundational issue addressed in 2:2 did Paul want to draw the Corinthians squabblers back to again and again?

## **Reflection**

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

## **Application**

Paul addressed the theme of unity throughout 1 Corinthians because the Corinthian Christians' inability to get along with each other spawned so many other issues. Read 1 Corinthians 13, where Paul explained the importance and power of love. Then read the list of love's attributes in verses 4–7. As you read each attribute, ask how it would help you contribute to building strong bonds between members of a family, a church, or a community.