



An Authentic Life!

Overview of 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 1:1 NKJV

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INTRODUCTION

The Vision of ECF - **“Creating Authentic Christians”**

“What is an Authentic Life?” - 1 Thessalonians gives us that answer.

Paul visited Thessalonica during his 2nd missionary journey:

- Important port city on the Aegean Sea
- Capital of the Roman province of Macedonia
- Located at the crossroads of two major trade routes
- Thus, a significant cultural and economic center

Large number of Greeks in Thessalonica believed Paul’s preaching.

- Jews stirred up persecution against Paul.
- Paul fled to Berea (Acts 17:1-10).

Paul probably wrote 1 & 2 Thessalonians around AD 50-51 during lengthy ministry in Corinth (Acts 18:1-17).

According to Dr. Tony Evans, Paul wrote to believers in Thessalonica:

- Because false teachers infiltrated the church and threatened to damage the congregation.
- To challenge moral laxity.
- To correct confusion concerning Christ’s second coming.
- To encourage believers who were suffering for their commitment to Christ.
- To encourage believers to live in light of Christ’s imminent return.
- To encourage believers to have lifestyles pleasing to the Lord.

Paul balanced encouragement, correction, and challenge to call the church to remain faithful to Christ, even though things were not going their way:

- Paul wanted them to operate with a kingdom mentality.
- Paul wanted them to live **AUTHENTIC LIVES!**

1 Thessalonians 1:1 NKJV

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Church (Greek: *ekklesia*) = a “called out group” (Acts 19:39-41).

- First century anytime people gathered for a common purpose, especially to address legal matters (as in a town hall meeting, as see in, it was called an “ekklesia.”
- Scripture takes this everyday word and gives it a new meaning.
- We as believers are the “called-out ones” — called out from the agenda of hell to a kingdom agenda that executes the rule heaven on earth!

Grace (Greek: *charis*) = favor, good will; unmerited favor of God.

Peace (Greek: *eirene* = tranquility, freedom from worry.

The practice of Authenticity is practiced by Paul and his disciples even as they initiate a letter to encourage the believers — their greeting!!

Authentic - *made or done in the traditional or original way, or in a way that faithfully resembles an original; being actually and exactly what is claimed. Implying being fully trustworthy as according with fact.” (Fact being - The Word of God!)*

THREE FACTS ABOUT AN AUTHENTIC LIFE

1. AN AUTHENTIC LIFE is based on _____

- **Consistency** (what God expects of us) - the harmony of conduct or practice with profession.
- **Matthew 5:37 NKJV**

An Authentic Consistency is based on faithfulness, genuineness, and integrity.

2. AN AUTHENTIC LIFE is displayed in _____

- Community of Men - Matthew 5:16 NKJV
- Community of Church - Hebrews 10:25 NKJV

An Authentic Community, there is chemistry, loyalty, fellowship, ministry, care, and service.

3. AN AUTHENTIC LIFE is rooted in _____

- **Certainty** that is rooted in that which is known or proved to be true Indisputable
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV

An Authentic Certainty is rooted in the assurance, confidence, and reliability of the Word of God.

NEXT WEEK – An Authentic Community!