

1 Thessalonians

Living the Gospel

1 Thessalonians Chapter 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.

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

1 Thessalonians Chapter 1

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

1 Thessalonians Chapter 1

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.

For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you **turned** to God from idols to **serve** the living and true God, and to **wait** for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Waiting

Turning

What have you left behind?

Serving

What is your purpose?

Waiting

What are you hoping for?

Waiting


Turning From Idols

Turning

The Olympians


Zeus: King of the gods;
Hera: Queen of the gods;
Poseidon: God of the sea,
Demeter: Agriculture and fertility.
Athena: Wisdom; warfare.
Apollo: Music, poetry, light
Artemis: Hunting and wild animals.
Ares: War and violence.
Aphrodite: Love and beauty.
Hephaestus: Blacksmiths and fire.
Hermes: Messenger, commerce thieves.
Dionysus: Wine, revelry, and theatre.

Thessalonians



Gods, and their idols, were integrated into every facet of Greek society; cultural, religious and personal

Turning from idols meant turning your life upside down and finding new meaning, belief, purpose, and place



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Us

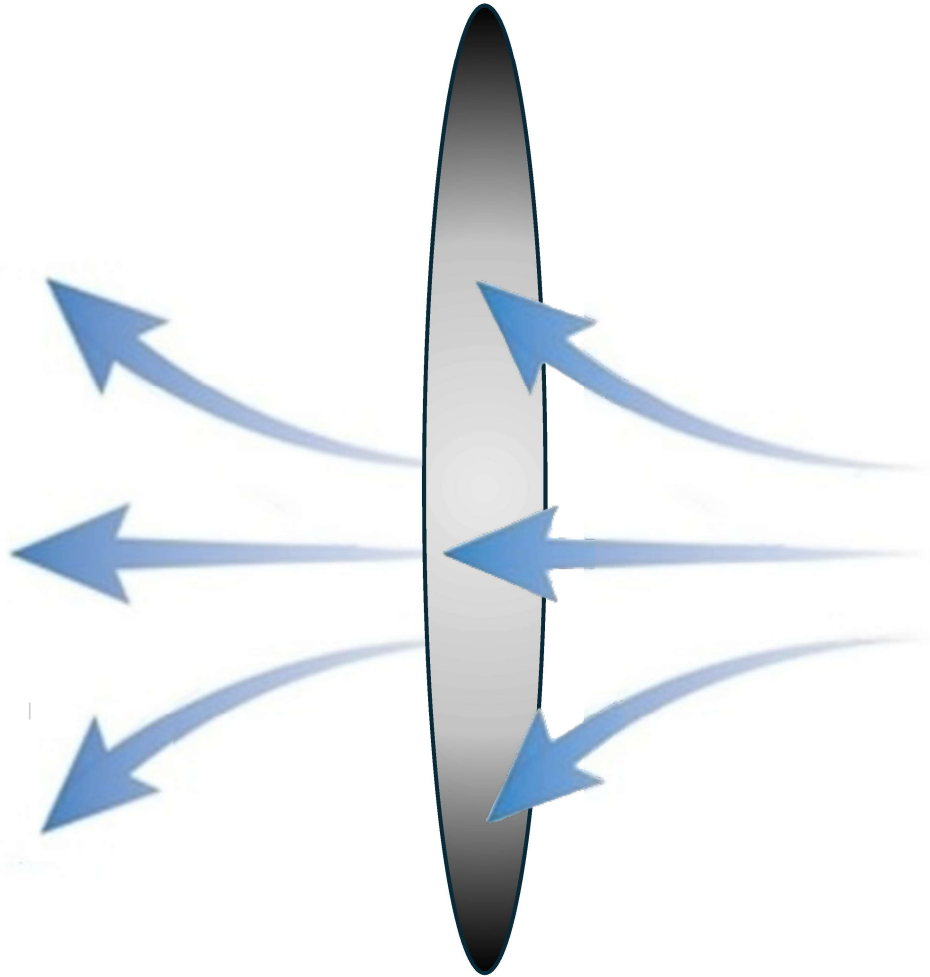
Idols:
Things which demand and receive an allegiance which is due to God alone

Idolater:
A prisoner held in humiliating bondage to a false god.

Away
From

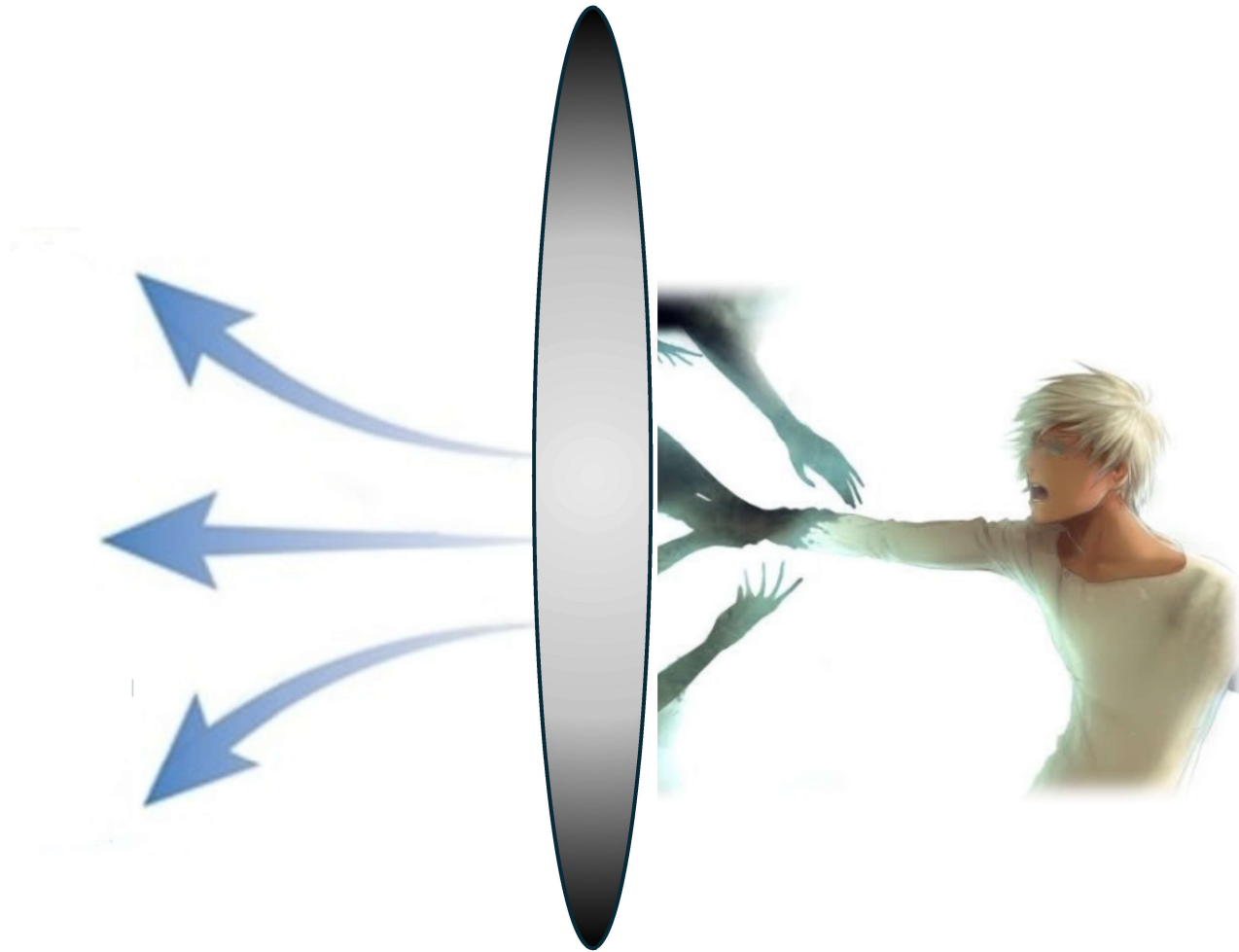
Toward
S

Your
Idol
s



The
Livin
g
God

Your
Idol
s



If you turn away

but don't turn
towards
something
better,

you will
inevitably turn

back

Serving the Living God

Serving the Living God

Effort	Doctrine
Work	...of faith
Labour	...of love
Steadfastness	...of hope

Serving the Living God

Works of Faith

Suffering
(2:2)

Enduring
(2:2 - Shamefully Treated)

Boldness
(2:2 - In much conflict)

Labours of Love

Gentleness
(2:7)

Nurturing
(2:7 - Like a nursing mother)

Encouraging
(2:11 - Like a father with his children)

Steadfastness of Hope

Be Informed
(4:13 - we do not want you to be uninformed)

Be Encouraged
(4:18 / 5:11 - encourage one another with these words)

Be Focussed
(5:6 - be awake & sober)

Waiting for his Son from Heaven

What Are You Waiting For?

The Rapture of the Church He Appears (1 Thess 4)

1. Appears **in the Heavens**
2. Deliverer
3. **For** the Church
4. Love & Compassion
5. Bridegroom

The Second Coming of Christ He Returns (Rev. 19)

1. Returns **to the Earth**
2. Warrior King / Messiah
3. **With** the Church
4. J udgement & Wrath
5. King of Kings and
Lord of Lords

Encouraging Hope

The coming of the Lord is described in 4 Phases:

The Return

The Lord himself will come down from heaven

The Resurrection And the dead in Christ will rise first

The Rapture

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds...

The Reunion

...to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall ever be with the Lord.

The Practice of Hope

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

We are waiting for his Son from heaven,
whom he raised from the dead,

What are You

even Jesus
Waiting For?

who delivers us from the wrath to come.