

1st Thessalonians

- **Author and Date**
 - Paul's first extant letter. Written from Corinth around AD 51-52.
- **Destination**
 - Thessalonica (modern day Salonika). Second largest Greek city next to Athens. On the coast 95 miles west of Philippi.
 - Majority of the church members were Gentiles.
 - Paul was forced to flee from there a year or two before he wrote this letter as a result of persecution by some of the Jews in that city.
 - As a result he was not able to complete their initial catechetical formation.
- **Themes and Characteristics**
 - A mere twenty years after the death of our Lord, the two letters to the Thessalonians combined contain all the major articles of the creed which we profess two thousand years later.
 - Universal call to holiness, "*For this is the will of God, your sanctification*" (1 Thess 4:3; cf. 4:7-8; 5:9).
 - Eschatology is the central theme. Echoes of our Lord's teaching on this topic (e.g., Lk 17; Mt 24), can be detected in Paul's instruction.

2nd Thessalonians

- **Author and Date**
 - Paul is writing about 2-3 months after the last letter.
- **Themes and Characteristics**
 - Further clarifications following up from the previous letter regarding the end times.
 - The 'Adversary' VS the 'Restrainer' (2:8).
 - We live between the 'already' of Christ's ascension to the right hand of the Father and the 'not yet' of his Second Coming.
 - Persevere in faith, hope, charity and good works.