



1. Who is the writer and/or speaker ?
2. When was it written and/or said ?
3. To whom was it written and/or spoken ?
4. What are the major natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple sentence sums it all up ?
7. What is an application to my life today ?

The book of 1st Thessalonians

1. **The writer** : The apostle Paul (1 Th 1:1, 2:18) wrote while Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy were with him (1:1, 3:6, ..."we" 79x). They had also served in Thessalonica since the beginning of the church (Ac 16:1-3, 17:4, 10, 14, 1 Th 1:3, 3:2). These three often worked together (2 Cor 1:19, 2 Th 1:1). Silas and Timothy were apostles (missionaries) just like Paul (1 Th 2:6).
2. **The date** : In the year 50 A.D. Paul had received financial aid at Corinth from the church in Thessalonica (Ac 18:1-5, 2 Cor 11:9, Philippians 4:19) of which he writes as having been recent 1 Th 3:6). He had sent Timothy to Athens (1 Th 3:1-2) who had met up with Paul with good news (1 Th 3:6) and financial aid. Claudius was Emperor of Rome between the year 43 and 54 A.D. banishing all Jews from Rome in the year 49 A.D. (Ac 18:1-2). Gallio had become Procounsul in the year 51 A.D. (Ac 18:12) and Paul had left. This is then the second book to be written of the New Testament after James, unless 1Th2v16 refers to the beginning of the revolt of the Jews that led up to 70 AD.
3. **The readers** : All the Christians of Thessalonica (1 Th 1:1), a city of Macedonia (Ac 27:2) in Greece (Ac 17:1-4) are addressed, not just the leaders. Thus the exhortations (1 Th 4:4) and edification about the end times (1 Th 5:2-3) are for all Christians (1 Th 5:11, 27).
4. **The natural divisions** : Two Conditions of all Christian
 - Converted, because Christ is coming back : 1 Th 1-3
 - Consoled, because Christ's return is imminent : 1 Th 4-5
5. **The key repeated words** : "Appearing" (παρουσια) of the Lord (4x which is as many as in Matthew and more than any other book in the New Testament).
6. **The message** : "The Lord will come just like a thief in the night." 1 Th 5:2
7. **The application** : "so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober." 1 Th 5:6