



**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church**  
**Bible Sharing Program 2022-23 (1Thessalonians 1:1-10)**  
**Session #1: Overview, Giving Thanks for God's Work**  
**In the Church**

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|                 | <p>known as Silas, was one of the leaders of the Church of Jerusalem, ministering to the Church of Thessalonica with Paul.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “The Church of the Thessalonians” – According to Paul’s understanding, “Church” is regional as well as universal, being one in Christ. As early as the OT times (LXX), God’s chosen people have been called the “church”.</li> <li>• Paul often begins his letter according to this typical formula, with mention of the writer(s), the recipient(s), and a greeting. Paul’s greeting becomes “Grace to you and peace”. This indicates that Paul’s relationship with Thessalonica is built on God’s grace and peace.</li> </ul>   | <p>NJBC 82:133-7, 2:14,<br/>1Cor 12:13, Dt 23:2,<br/>Judges 20:2</p> <p>CCSS</p>                          |
| <p><b>C</b></p> | <p><b><u>Thanksgiving and Exhortation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul “always” gives thanks to God and pray for the Thessalonian faithful. Paul believes that prayer and thanksgiving should not be restricted to certain time and place; what’s important is that with a heart of prayer and thanksgiving, we must offer every moment of our life to God and humbly ask Him to receive our offerings.</li> <li>• “Remembering before our God and Father your work of faith.” What is “work of faith”? Didn’t Paul teach that righteousness was by faith and not by works?</li> </ul>   | <p>1:2-4</p> <p>1:2 CCSS, 5:16-18,<br/>Col 3:17<br/>Note 2</p> <p>1:3 CCSS Rm 3:28,<br/>Songs 2:17-18</p> |
| <p><b>D</b></p> | <p><b><u>Finding Joy in Tribulations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation”, for he will “receive the crown of life that he promised”. His perseverance comes from his love for God, since love “rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1Cor 13:6-7).</li> <li>• “God is the subject to temptation to evil, and he himself tempts no one”. Temptation arises from our own desire; desire leads to sin; and sin “reaches maturity ... gives birth to death”. God wants us to get closer to Him, not away from Him, during these trials.</li> <li>• Temptation comes from our own desire, therefore, we need to be vigilant, “do not be deceived”, be honest with ourselves. The solution is from above, “coming down from the Father of light”, “all</li> </ul> |   |

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|  | <p>good giving and every perfect gift”, including the aforementioned “the crown of life” (v12), wisdom (v 5), “word of truth” and “be a kind of first fruits of his creatures” (v18).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Be doers of the word and not hearers only”, blessed is “the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseverance”. The Gospel is “word of truth” (v18); it is binding just like the law; however, the truth binds us to true freedom. The law of the Gospel is perfect because Jesus has fulfilled all OT law.</li> <li>• One who is truly religious and devoted should not only obey the law and participate in liturgies, but “bridle his tongue”, serves others, “to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world”.</li> </ul> |  |
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Special Notes:

1. Dates of Paul's Letters:

| Letter         | Date         |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1Thessalonians | 51           |
| 1Thessalonians | 51/90s       |
| Galatians      | 54-57        |
| Philippians    | 56-57        |
| 1Corinthians   | 57           |
| 2Corinthians   | 57           |
| Romans         | 58           |
| Philemon       | 56-57/61-63  |
| Colossians     | 61-63/70-80  |
| Ephesians      | 61-63/90-100 |
| Titus          | 65/95-100    |
| 1Timothy       | 65/95-100    |
| 2Timothy       | 66-67/95-100 |

Source : New Jerome Biblical Commentary 66:56

2. Training For Prayer

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Prayer is the life of the new heart. It ought to animate us at every moment. But we tend to forget him who is our life and our all ... if we do not pray at specific times, consciously willing it. These are the special times of Christian prayer, both in intensity and duration.

The Tradition of the Church proposes to the faithful certain rhythms of praying intended to nourish continual prayer. Some are daily, such as morning and evening prayer, grace before and after meals, the Liturgy of the Hours. Sundays, centered on the Eucharist, are kept holy primarily by prayer. The cycle of the liturgical year and its great feasts are also basic rhythms of the Christian's life of prayer.

(CCC 2697-98)