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Structural Analysis of 1 Thessalonians via Outline

- I. INTRODUCTION: The Gospel Came in Power 1:1-10
 - A. Greeting 1:1-4
 - B. Gospel came in power, not words 1:5--8

Paul was speaking against those who would seek to pervert both his message, which was from God, not man.
 - C. The Thessalonians turned from idols to serve God 1:8-10

Paul reminds them of their past state and their current salvation.
- II. Founding Purpose 2:1-20
 - A. Paul's purpose was to share the Gospel 2:1-8

Paul's purpose was to share the message of God, not his own message, even through suffering.
 - B. Paul and helpers never took advantage 2:9-13

Although permissible, Paul and the others especially sought to set an example by working among them and not taking advantage of their hospitality.
 - C. The Thessalonians endured suffering for their faith as other churches have 2:14-16
 - D. While desiring to visit, have been hindered from doing so by Satan 2:17-20

To speak against those who might say Paul had lost concern for them or was afraid of returning, Paul mentions his desire to return but the spiritual battle that was preventing him.
- III. Reason for Sending Timothy 3:1-13
 - A. Urgent to hear about faith of the Thessalonians 3:1-5

Paul and the others were desiring to hear if the Gospel had maintained its fruit among the Thessalonians in his absence.
 - B. To be a source of encouragement to the Thessalonians and to Paul 3:6-8

Timothy would bring encouragement to the Thessalonians by sharing news of Paul and to Paul by sharing news of the condition of the Thessalonians.
 - C. Paul praises their continued faithfulness having heard the report 3:9-13

Paul was relieved and joyous upon hearing of their continued faith.
- IV. Exhortations 4:1-18
 - A. You already know what we taught while among you 4:1-2

Paul charges the Thessalonians to stick with what they know to be true, what he had shared with them (speaking against other possible messages that might creep in).
 - B. Believers are called to holiness 4:3-7

Paul reminds them that they are not to return to their old ways or be entangled with sin again.
 - C. Rejecting the message is rejecting God, not men 4:8

Ignoring or rejecting the message Paul shared is not rejecting some teaching from man, but the command of God, this serves as a reminder and a warning to not follow men, but to follow God.
 - D. Lead a quiet life in order to be a proper witness to unbelievers 4:9-12

The Thessalonians should seek to live a quiet life, working and maintaining a life that would be conducive to a good opinion by outsiders, which would help their witness to unbelievers and give no occasion for trouble.
 - E. There will be a rapture of believers at Christ's second coming 4:13-18

Paul shares details of the future second coming and offers encouragement, that the believers will be taken up with Christ at that time.

- V. End Times 5:1-13
 - A. No one knows the time (disbelieve those who claim to know) 5:1-3
 - B. Live fearless, as sons of the light, not of darkness 5:4-8

The second coming is not something to be feared by believers as they are sons of the light. Only those who are not believers have occasion to be afraid. They can rest assured of their salvation.
 - C. Salvation awaits believers, not wrath – eagerly await Christ’s return edifying one another 5:9-13

- VI. Conclusion 5:14-28
 - A. Final Exhortations 5:14-24
 - i. Warn the unruly
 - ii. Do not pay back evil for evil
 - iii. Rejoice, pray and give thanks
 - iv. Abstain from evil
 - B. Request for prayer – Paul asks to be kept in prayer by the Thessalonians 5:25
 - C. Share this letter with other believers – Paul wants this epistle shared in the region with other believers. 5:26-28