

Thessalonians and Corinthians

- Occasion of 1 and 2 Thessalonians
- Theological concerns of 1-2 Thessalonians
- Occasion of 1 and 2 Corinthians
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1 and 2 Thessalonians

- Occasion of 1 and 2 Thessalonians?
 - Concern about loved ones who had died.
 - Concern that the *parousia* might have come, especially in light of their afflictions.
- Paraenetic letters: ethical exhortation, based on things they already know.
- Their response to the gospel: turned from idols to serve the living God.

2

1 and 2 Thessalonians

- Theological concerns?
 - Jesus is Christ (almost as a name), Lord.
 - Theology of election.
 - God calls people into the kingdom (1 Thess. 2:12).
 - Those who believe join God's chosen people.
 - Election is primarily corporate.
 - The elect = the people of God.
 - Matera: election incorporates believers into the story of Israel. God loves Gentile believers also!
 - The presence of the Spirit in their community shows their election.

3

1 and 2 Thessalonians

- Theological concerns?
 - Emphasis on eschatology, hope for *parousia*.
 - Church as the elect people, new family, sanctified community.
 - Sanctified = consecrated to God's service.
 - Theological virtues: faith, hope, love.
 - The meaning of suffering for Christ – is Jesus coming soon?

4

1 and 2 Corinthians

- Occasion of 1 and 2 Corinthians?
 - Disorder in Corinth: factions, un-Christian behavior, immorality, challenges to Paul.
 - Before 1 Cor.: two letters; verbal report from Chloe's household, possibly Stephanas also.
 - Between 1 and 2 Cor.: visits by Timothy and Paul, a severe letter, visit by Titus and report.
 - Paul writes 2 Cor. to encourage them, defend his ministry, urge them to contribute to the saints.

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1 and 2 Corinthians

- Theological concerns?
 - God's wisdom vs. human wisdom.
 - They thought they were knowledgeable and gifted.
 - But they didn't understand the wisdom of the cross.
 - Cross and resurrection at Corinth.
 - The theology of the cross is necessary.
 - But so is the theology of resurrection (glory).
 - Natural (*psychikos*) vs. spiritual (*pneumatikos*) perspectives, people, bodies.
 - NOT physical vs. spiritual bodies!

6

1 and 2 Corinthians

- Theological concerns?
 - Christ as the Last Adam, who accomplishes “so much more” in salvation than Adam in sin.
 - The church as the *ekklesia* of God.
 - Local church, area churches, universal church.
 - Body of Christ: unity and interdependence.
 - Order in worship
 - *Koinonia*: sharing, participation (with one another; in Christ; in the Spirit)
 - Participants in Christ or in demons (1 Cor. 10: 16, 20).

7

1 and 2 Corinthians

- Theological concerns?
 - Purpose and use of spiritual gifts (edification, love).
 - The nature of apostolic ministry
 - Ministry of the new covenant (2 Cor. 3:6).
 - Ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-20).
 - Sharing in Christ’s sufferings.
 - Christian freedom
 - Food sacrificed to idols.
 - The apostle as example.

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