



# A Purposeful and Theological Introduction

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

# 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention  
of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work  
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in  
our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,  
knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; for our  
gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power  
and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...



# Main Point

In Paul's simple salutation, he sets the stage for his instruction by reminding the Thessalonians of the foundation he laid when with them – a foundation that is thoroughly theological.

The background is a faded map of the Mediterranean region, showing the coastlines of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Overlaid on the map are several text elements: 'Dep. 31. 01. 1900' at the top left, 'L. LIMONCE STALLWART' at the top center, 'Dep. 31. 01. 1900' at the top right, 'Dep. 31. 01. 1900' at the bottom left, 'VUGTK, v. v. l.' in the bottom center, and 'Národní technické' at the bottom right. The main title 'Paul's Purposeful Introduction' is centered at the top in a large, bold, black font, and the subtitle 'A purposeful salutation' is centered below it in a slightly smaller, bold, black font.

# Paul's Purposeful Introduction

## A purposeful salutation

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.





# **Paul's Purposeful Salutation**

His purposeful inclusion

**1 Thessalonians 1:1**

**Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,**

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

**Who were these men?**

# Paul

## **Acts 13:9**

But Saul, who was also known as Paul...

## **Romans 11:13**

But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles.  
Inasmuch then as **I am an apostle of Gentiles...**

## **1 Timothy 2:7**

For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle...as  
**a teacher of the Gentiles** in faith and truth.



# Silvanus or Silas

## Acts 15:22

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas — Judas called Barsabbas, **and Silas**, leading men among the brethren.

## Acts 15:32

Judas **and Silas**, also being prophets themselves, encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message.

# Silvanus or Silas

**Acts 15:39-41**

Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus.

But **Paul chose Silas** and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

**1 Peter 5:12**

**Through Silvanus**, our faithful brother...

I have written to you briefly...

# Timothy

## **Acts 16:1**

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.

## **1 Corinthians 4:17**

For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.



**1 Thessalonians 1:1**

**Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,**

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

**Why did Paul include them  
in his salutation?**



# Paul's Purposeful Salutation

Paul's purposeful inclusion

## Paul's intentional omission

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

# What is missing?



**Romans 1:1**

Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle...

**1 Corinthians 1:1**

Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God...

**Galatians 1:1**

Paul, an apostle...

**Ephesians 1:1**

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...

**1 Thessalonians 1:1**

Paul...to the church of the Thessalonians...

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637  
TEL: 773.936.7000  
WWW.CHICAGO.EDU

# Why?

# Paul's Purposeful Introduction

Paul's purposeful salutation

## Paul's doctrinal foundation

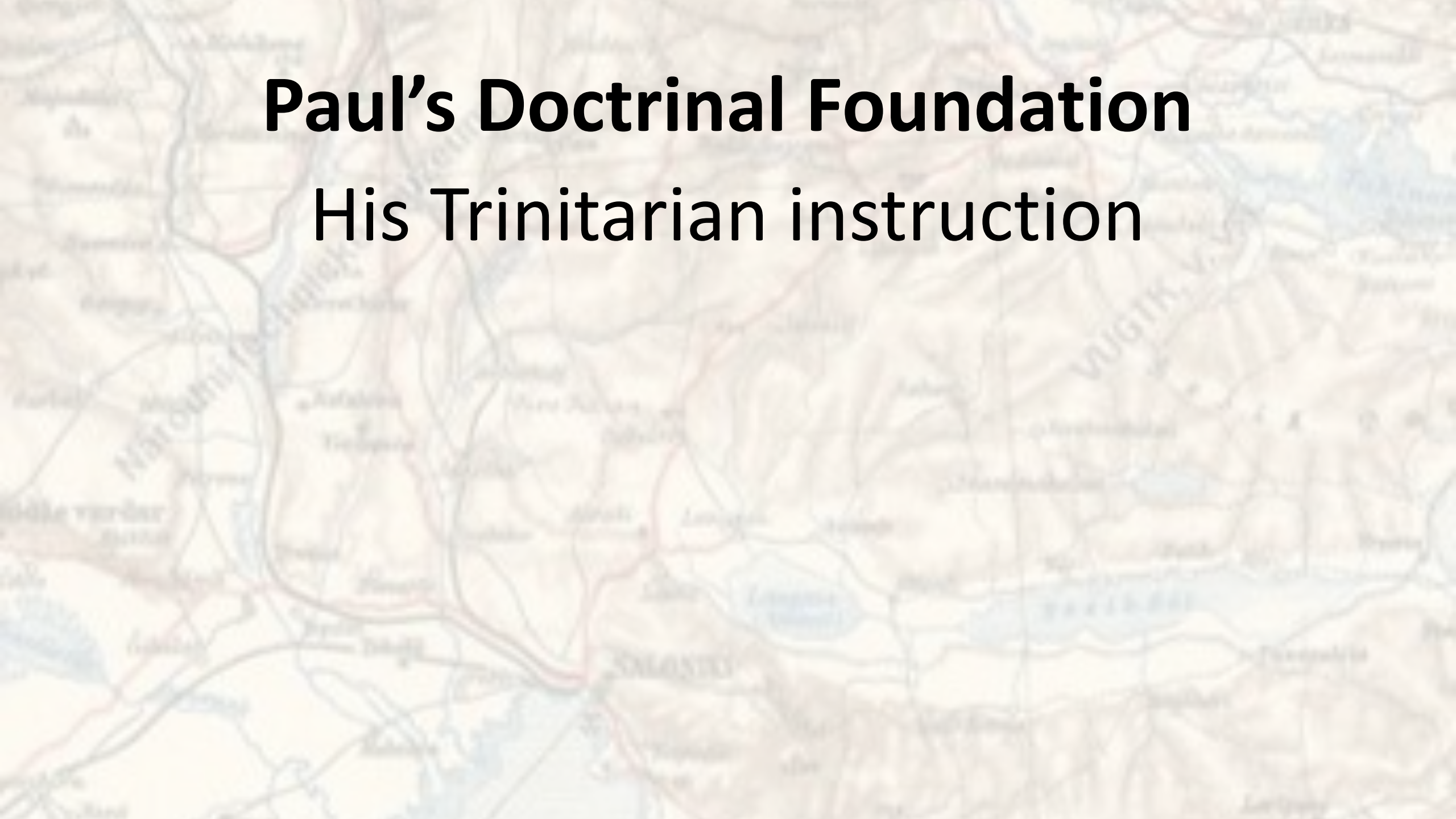


## **1 Thessalonians 1:1-5**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention  
of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work  
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in  
our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,  
knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; for our  
gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power  
and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...



# **Paul's Doctrinal Foundation**

## His Trinitarian instruction

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians **in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ**: Grace to you and peace.

It would be unthinkable for a Jew to so  
closely connect God with the man, Jesus.



## 1 Thessalonians 1:1

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians **in God** the Father  
**and** the Lord **Jesus** Christ: Grace to you and peace.

It would be unthinkable for a Jew to so  
closely connect God with the man, Jesus.

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

It would be unthinkable to designate  
the man, Jesus, as **Kύριος** (Lord).

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the **Lord Jesus Christ**: Grace to you and peace.

It would be unthinkable to designate  
the man, Jesus, as Κύριος (Lord).



## **Deuteronomy 6:4**

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God,  
the LORD is one!

## **Deuteronomy 6:4**

Hear, O Israel! The LORD (Κύριος) is our God,  
the LORD (Κύριος) is one!

# Even More Fully Trinitarian

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1 and 5**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ...

...for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also  
in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...



# Even More Fully Trinitarian

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and 5

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians **in** God **the Father**  
and the Lord Jesus Christ...

...for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also  
in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...

# Even More Fully Trinitarian

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and 5

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians **in** God the Father  
and **the Lord Jesus Christ...**

...for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also  
in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...

# Even More Fully Trinitarian

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1 and 5

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians **in** God **the Father**

and **the Lord Jesus Christ...**

...for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also

in power and **in the Holy Spirit** and with full conviction...





# Paul's Doctrinal Foundation

His Trinitarian instruction

His understanding of divine operation.

**1 Thessalonians 1:2**

We give thanks to God always for all of you...

**Why does Paul give thanks to God?**

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ...

# 1 Thessalonians 1:1

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To **the church** of the Thessalonians **in** **God the Father**  
and the Lord Jesus Christ...



# **1 Thessalonians 1:1**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To **the church** of the Thessalonians **in God the Father**  
**and the Lord Jesus Christ...**

## **1 Thessalonians 1:5**

**...for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but  
also  
in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...**

## 1 Thessalonians 1:5

...for our gospel did not come to you in word only, **but** also

**in power and in the Holy Spirit** and with full  
conviction...

## **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.



## **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

For this reason we also constantly thank God that when  
you received the word of God which you heard from us,  
you accepted it not as the word of men,  
but for what it really is, the word of God,

**which** also **performs its work in you who believe.**



# Paul's Doctrinal Foundation

His Trinitarian instruction

His understanding of divine operation.

His use of covenantal connections.

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1-4**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention  
of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work  
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in  
our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,  
knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.



# 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To **the church** of the Thessalonians **in God** the Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.



# 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

To **the ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia)** of the Thessalonians **in God** the

Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.

# Covenant Connection?

## Deuteronomy 9:10

The LORD gave me the two tablets of stone...and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken with you at the mountain from the midst of the fire on the day of **the assembly**.

## Deuteronomy 23:8

The sons of the third generation who are born to them may enter **the assembly of the LORD**.

## Deuteronomy 31:30

Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all **the assembly of Israel** the words of this song...

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1-4**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,

**To the assembly of the Thessalonians** in God the Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you.

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the assembly of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.  
We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention  
of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work  
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in  
our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

knowing, **brethren beloved by God**, His choice of you.



# 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the assembly of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.  
We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention  
of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work  
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in  
our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

knowing, **brethren** beloved by God, His choice of you.

# Covenant Connection?

## Exodus 2:11

Now it came about in those days, when Moses had grown up, that **he went out to his brethren** and looked on their hard labors; and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, **one of his brethren.**

## 1 Chronicles 28:2

Then King David rose to his feet and said,  
“Listen to me, **my brethren and my people...**”

## 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the assembly of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.  
We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention  
of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work  
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in  
our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

knowing, **brethren beloved by God**, His choice of you.

# 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the assembly of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.  
We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention  
of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work  
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in  
our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

knowing, brethren **beloved by God**, His choice of you.



# Covenant Connection?

Deuteronomy 33:12

May **the beloved of the LORD** dwell in security by Him...

Psalm 60:5

That **Your beloved** may be delivered,  
Save with Your right hand, and answer us!

# 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the assembly of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.  
We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention  
of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work  
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in  
our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

knowing, **brethren beloved by God**, His choice of you.

## **1 Thessalonians 1:1-4**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the assembly of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.  
We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention  
of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work  
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in  
our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,

**knowing**, brethren beloved by God, **His choice of you.**

# Covenant Connection?

## Deuteronomy 7:6

For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; **the LORD your God has chosen you** to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

## 1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are ***a chosen race***, a royal *priesthood*, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were *not a people*, but now you are *the people of God*; you had *not received mercy*, but now you have *received mercy*.



# **Covenant Connection?**

## **Deuteronomy 10:15**

Yet on your fathers did the LORD set His affection to love them,  
and He chose their descendants after them,  
even you above all peoples, as it is this day.

**1 Thessalonians 1:4**

...knowing, brethren beloved by God,  
His choice of you.

Paul's Trinitarian teaching and his application of covenantal realities to the Gentiles is likely what drove the anger of the Jews.

# Paul's Purposeful Introduction

Paul's purposeful salutation

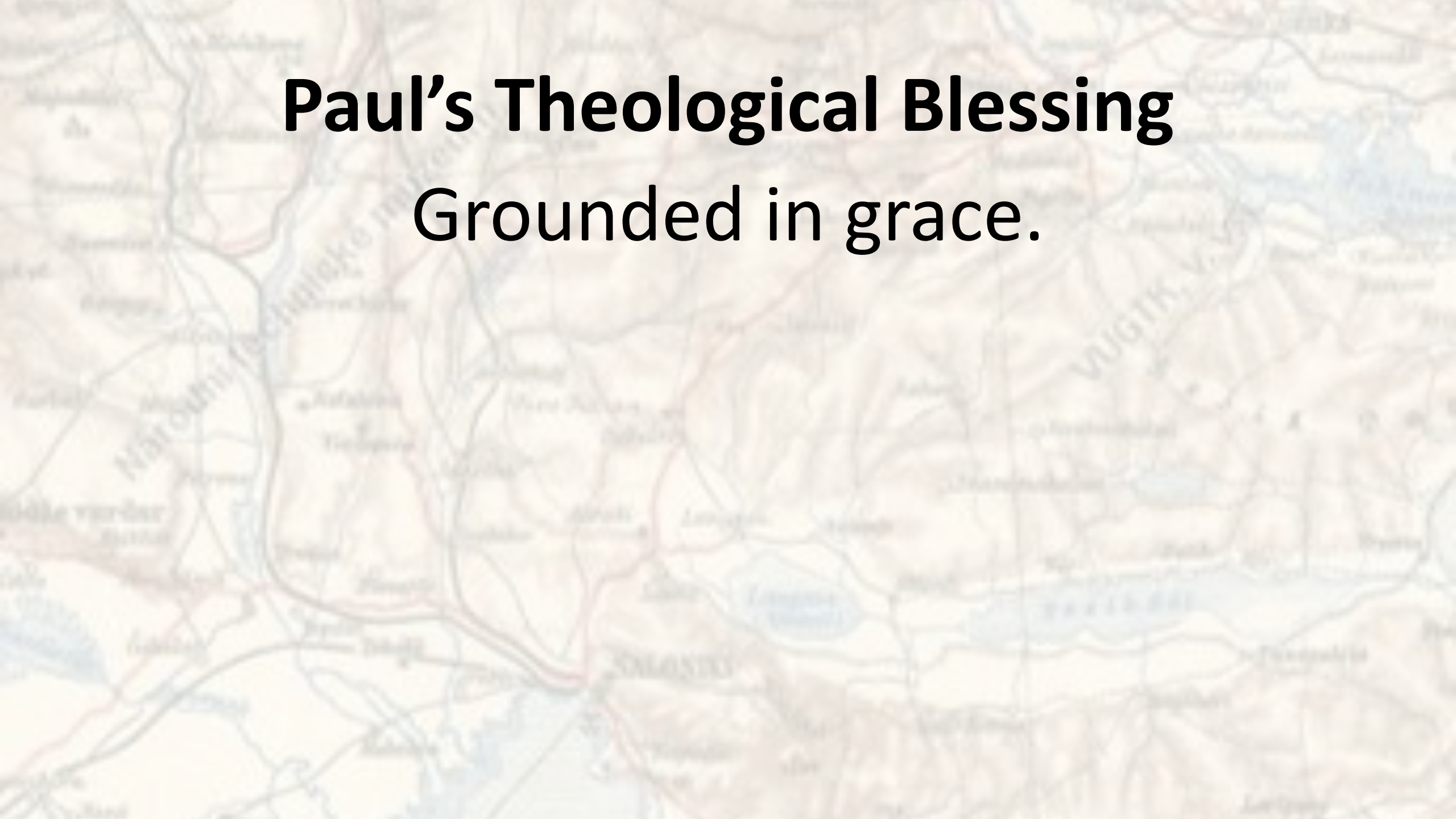
Paul's doctrinal foundation

## Paul's theological blessing



## **1 Thessalonians 1:1**

Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ: **Grace to you and peace.**



# **Paul's Theological Blessing**

## **Grounded in grace.**

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-4**

**Grace to you** and peace.

Paul changed the form of the standard greeting, thus converting a common convention of his day into a blessing with rich theological significance.

**Grace is our only hope!**



Grace is the reality that governs  
our relationship with God...  
but it must also govern our  
relationships with one another.





# Paul's Theological Blessing

Grounded in grace.

Pointed at peace.

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-4**  
**Grace to you** and peace.

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-4**

Grace to you **and peace.**

**It is God's grace that  
brings peace!**

### **John 14:27**

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you;  
not as the world gives do I give to you.  
Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

### **Romans 5:1**

Therefore, having been justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **2 Corinthians 13:11**

Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete,  
be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace;  
and **the God of love and peace** will be with you.



When you live in grace you will  
experience the peace of God,  
and when you live by grace you  
will be at peace with others.

# Conclusion

Our faith is theological, so we must grow in our theology if we are to experience the entailments of the gospel.

What is your attitude toward “theology”?