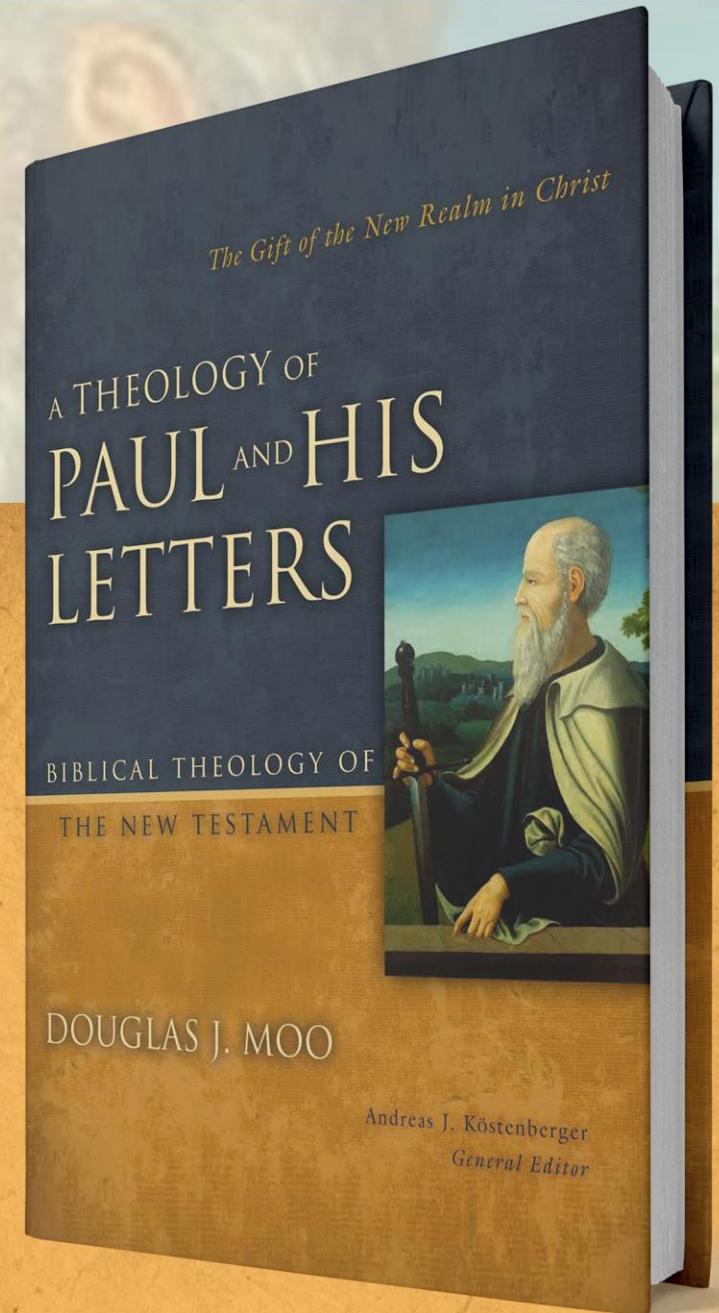


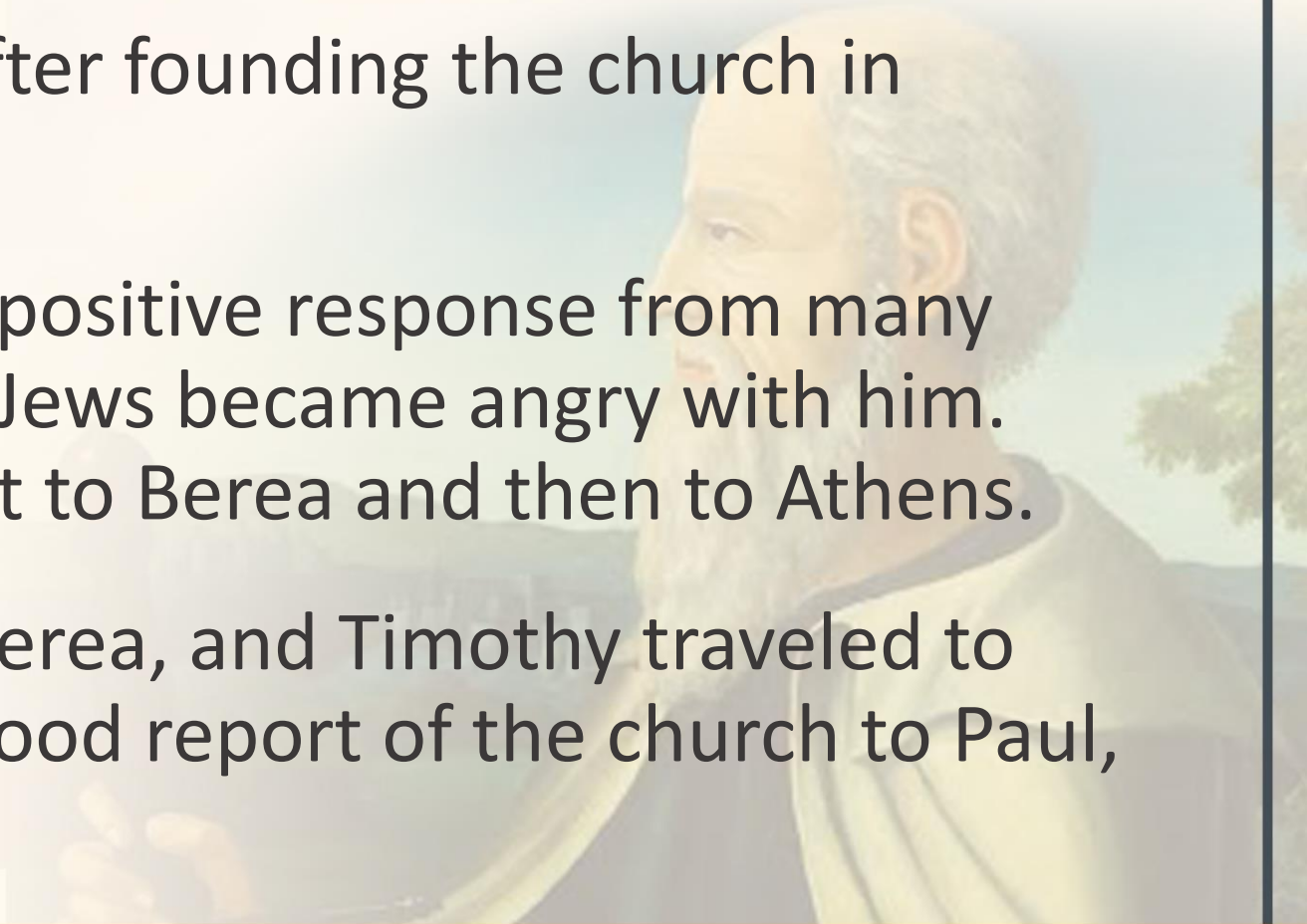
CHAPTER 5

1 Thessalonians



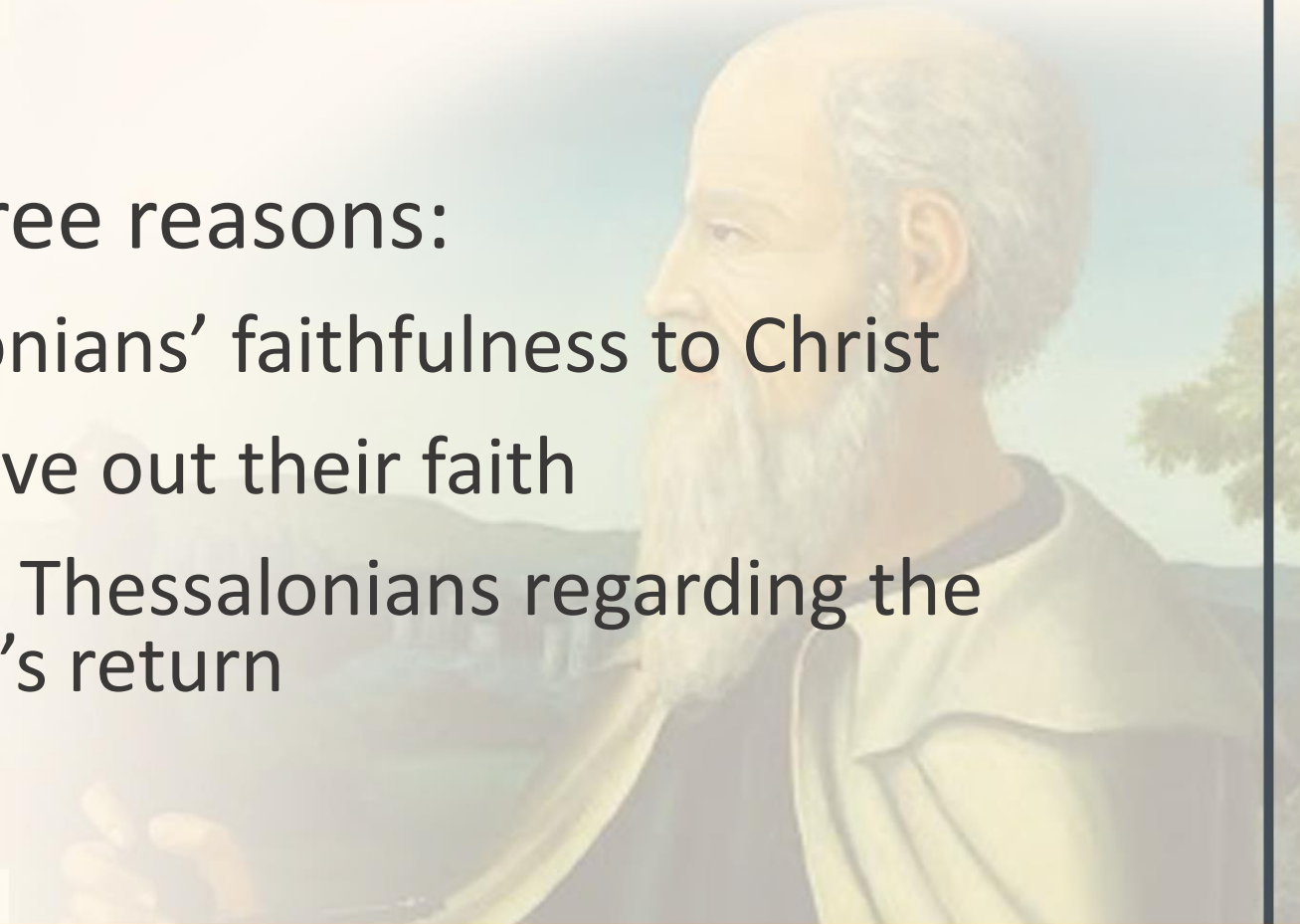
Locating the Letter

- Paul wrote this letter shortly after founding the church in Thessalonica.
- His teachings were met with a positive response from many Christians and Jews, but some Jews became angry with him. Paul left Thessalonica and went to Berea and then to Athens.
- Paul left Silas and Timothy in Berea, and Timothy traveled to Thessalonica. Timothy sent a good report of the church to Paul, which prompted Paul's letter.



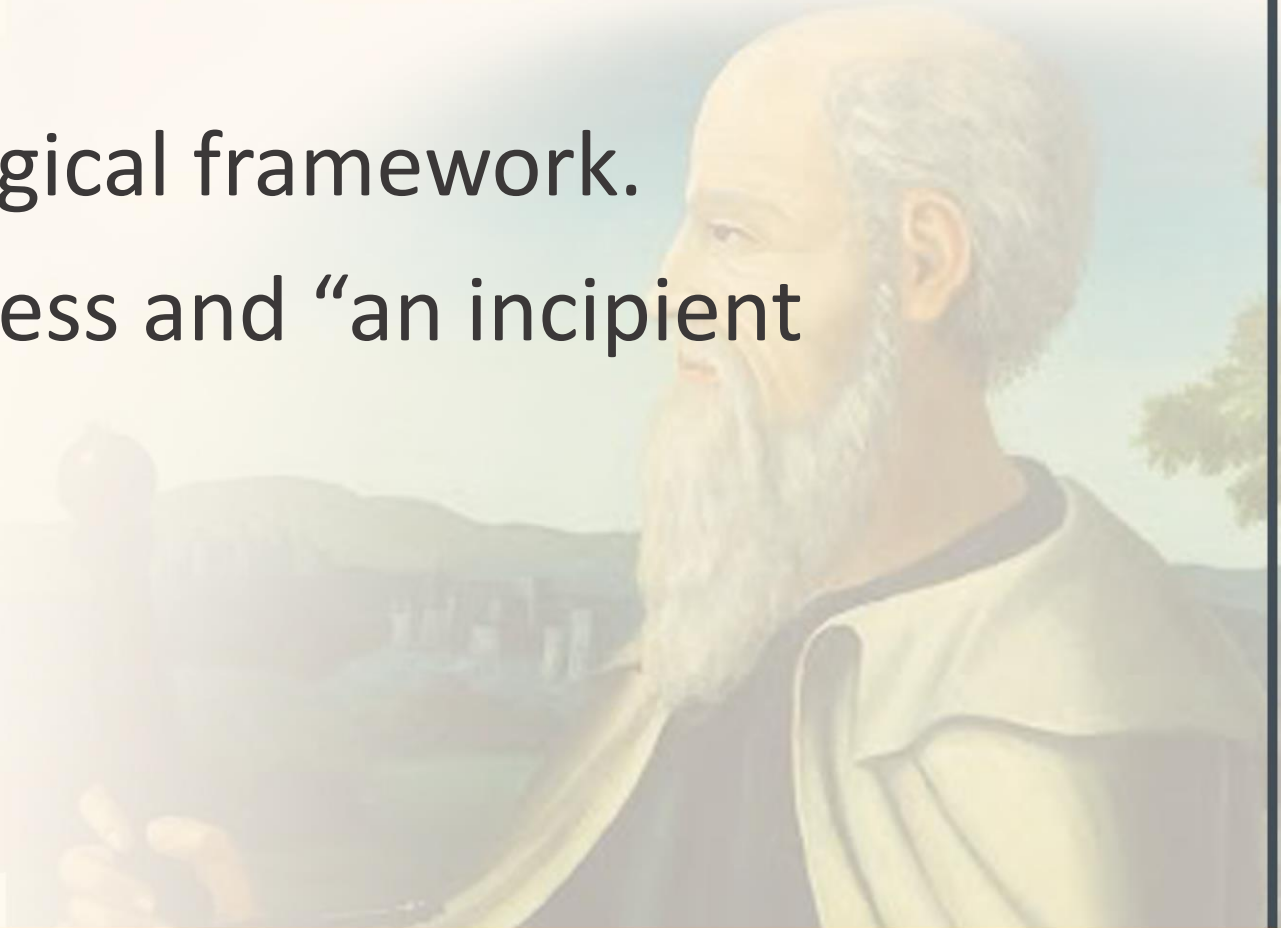
Isolating the Issues

- Paul wrote the letter for three reasons:
 1. To celebrate the Thessalonians' faithfulness to Christ
 2. To remind them how to live out their faith
 3. To teach and comfort the Thessalonians regarding the events surrounding Jesus's return



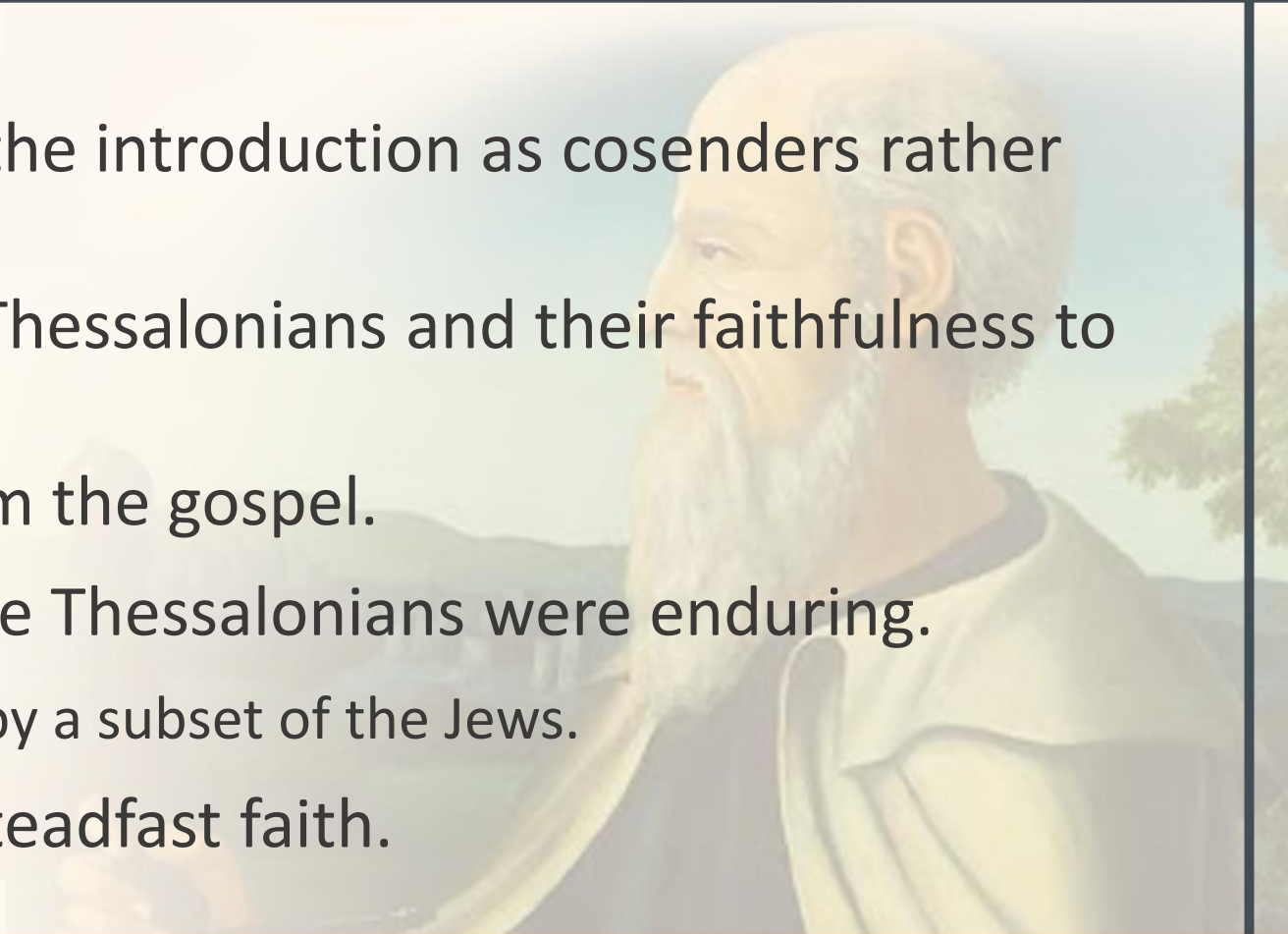
Analyzing the Argument

- This letter has an eschatological framework.
- Other themes include holiness and “an incipient trinitarianism.”

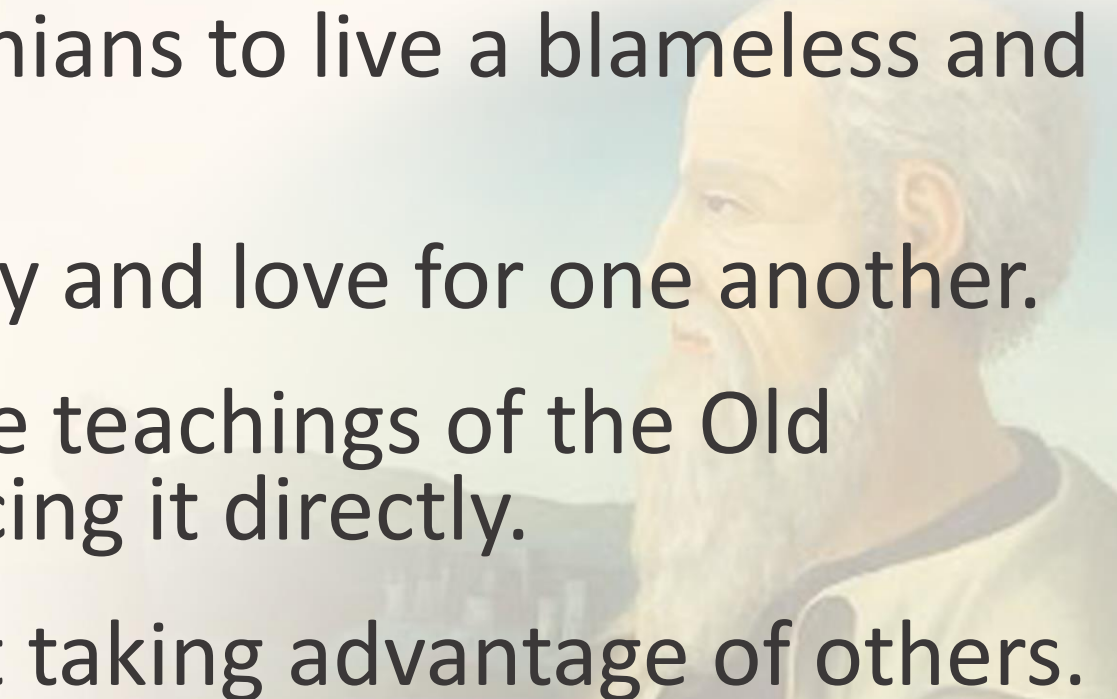


Paul and the Thessalonians (1:1–3:13)

- Paul included Silas and Timothy in the introduction as cosenders rather than coauthors.
- He repeatedly gave thanks for the Thessalonians and their faithfulness to the gospel.
- He then focused on how to proclaim the gospel.
- He remarked on the persecution the Thessalonians were enduring.
 - The church may have been attacked by a subset of the Jews.
- He rejoiced at the Thessalonians' steadfast faith.

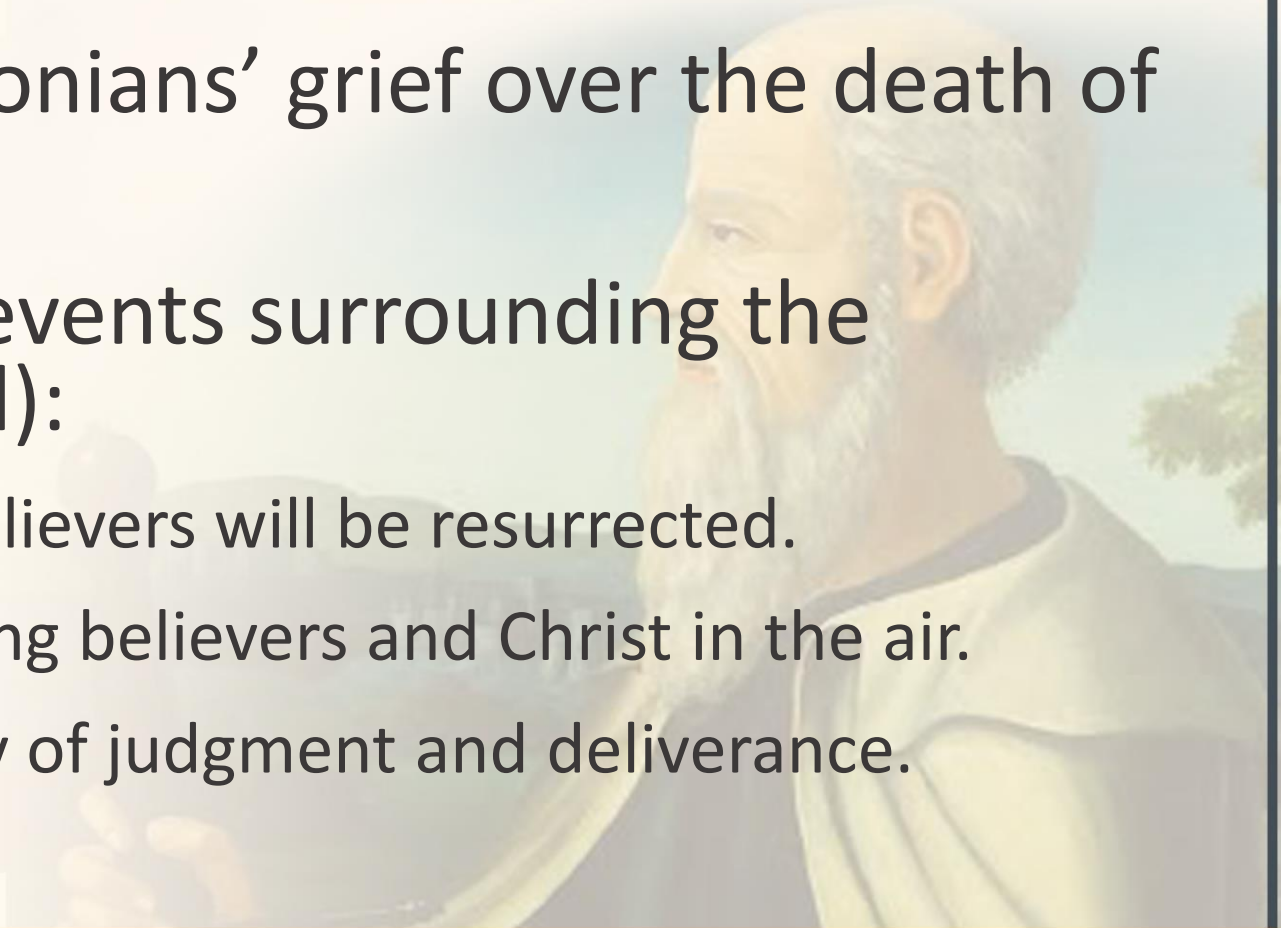


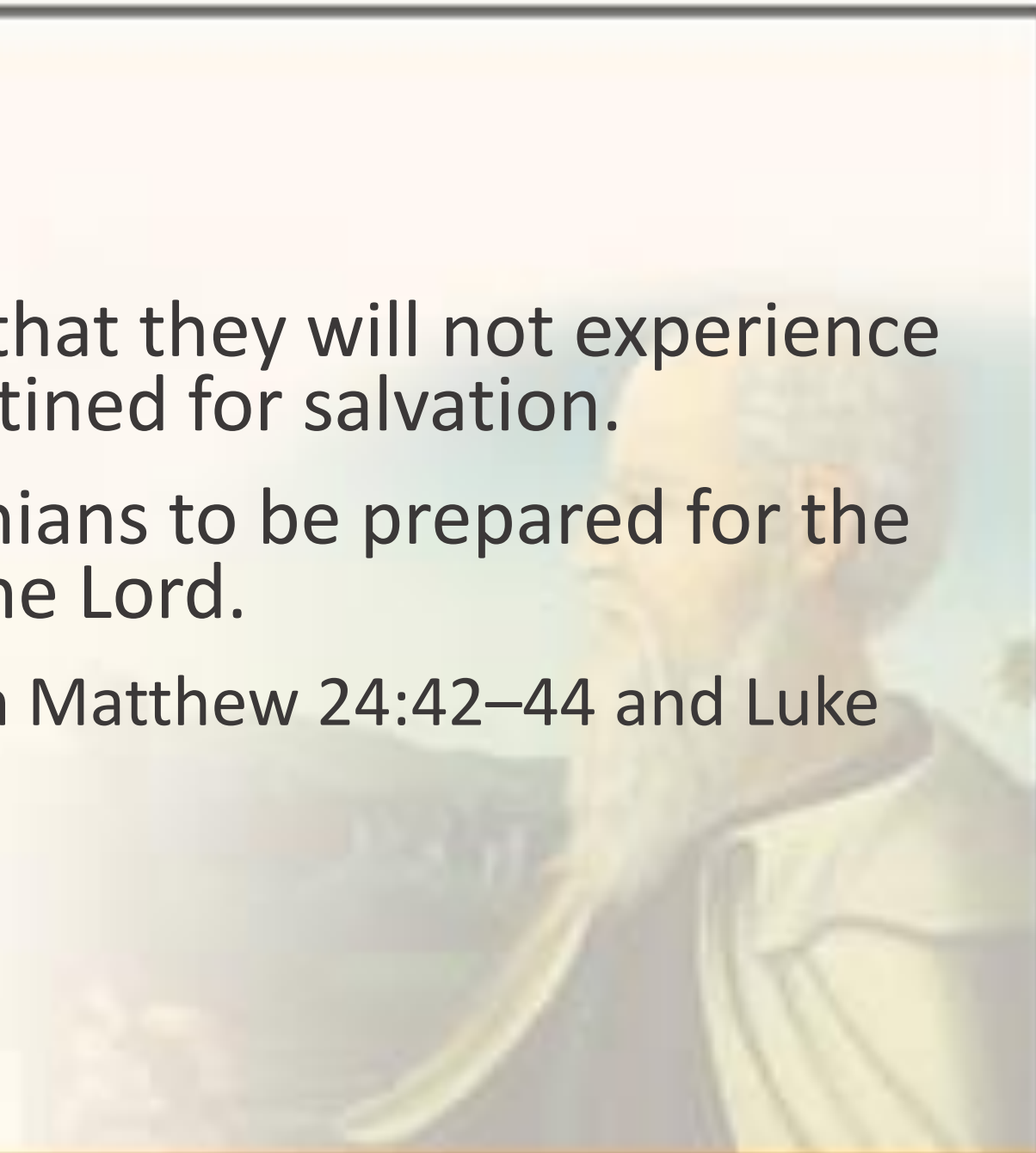
Exhortations to Holy Living (4:1–12)

- Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to live a blameless and holy life that serves God.
 - He focused on sexual fidelity and love for one another.
 - Paul's statements reflect the teachings of the Old Testament without referencing it directly.
 - He issued a warning against taking advantage of others.
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Living in Light of Christ's Return (4:13–5:11)

- Paul addressed the Thessalonians' grief over the death of their fellow believers.
- He taught them about the events surrounding the parousia (or day of the Lord):
 - When the Lord returns, dead believers will be resurrected.
 - There will be a “meeting” of living believers and Christ in the air.
 - The day of the Lord will be a day of judgment and deliverance.



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- He assured the Thessalonians that they will not experience God's wrath since they are destined for salvation.
 - Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to be prepared for the sudden coming of the day of the Lord.
 - This is similar to the warnings in Matthew 24:42–44 and Luke 21:34–36.

Final Exhortations and Letter Closing (5:12–28)

- Paul closed the letter with encouragement and exhortations.

