

**LECTURES ON ST. PAUL'S FIRST  
EPISTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS,  
CHAPTERS I.-IV. DELIVERED IN  
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
SCARBOROUGH**

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**R. V. DUNLOP**

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# LECTURES

ON

## ST. PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS

CHAPTERS I.-IV.

*DELIVERED IN HOLY TRINITY CHURCH  
SCARBOROUGH,*

BY THE LATE

REV. R. V. DUNLOP, VICAR.



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*To the Congregations worshipping at Bishopwearmouth  
Parish Church, and at Holy Trinity Church, Scarborough,  
this Little Book—the last Bible Readings of one who loved them  
well—is Dedicated, in grateful remembrance of the affection  
shown to the Author.*



THE following Lectures were among the last works of their writer before he was called to his rest. They are published as left by him, when, after delivery, he from memory wrote them down; and lack of record makes it impossible to acknowledge any sources to which he may have been indebted. Those who heard these Bible Readings will regret, in their present form, the loss of that finish which marked them when given; and will miss too the charm lent to them by the gentle and persuasive manner of the speaker. They are, however, sent forth with the feeling that, even in their incomplete state, they will be welcomed by all in whose hearts the memory of him who penned them is still cherished, and that perhaps they may prove useful to others under whose notice they now, for the first time, come.

J. H. A. S.

*Easter, 1882.*



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## Lecture I.

*"Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ."*—I THESS. i. 1.

READERS of the Koran will hardly call it an interesting book. It is very tedious. There is a great deal of chaff, very little wheat; and, what little there is, is taken from the Scriptures. Now the Bible, besides being God's revealed will, is in the very form in which it is put interesting. Men do not think so, and some would probably feel they had but a dull companion, were they left alone any time with the Bible. But when we have felt first our need of it, and then its value, we find that not only has God told us His will therein, but that He has used the most interesting ways in so doing. Interesting history, touching biography, sublime poetry, and the matchless tale of the Gospels are followed by a series of letters dwelling on, and expanding Christian doctrine, written by real men, to real men, who put the truth in a taking form. St. Paul was the great letter-writer. "His letters are weighty." They are a living power yet, for he wrote as he was "moved by the Holy Ghost." The Epistles to the Thessalonians are doubly interesting. They are the earliest of his letters which have been preserved. He may have written some before, for the caution

given (2 Thess. iii. 17) as to the genuine mark of his letters may imply not only that he had already begun his literary work, but that forgers were even now in the field. However this may be, the First Epistle to the Thessalonians is the earliest of his writings which we possess, and it is perhaps the oldest Christian document in existence. As you are aware, the Epistles are arranged in our Testament not according to their date or their importance, but according to their bulk or length, and hence the position of the one now open before us. On it we propose to dwell. May God the Holy Ghost give His help, and make the study profitable.

To-day our remarks must be introductory, and we shall notice the *Writer of this letter, and Its Address.*

#### I. THE WRITER.

Three names indeed head the letter. Paul mentions the names of Silvanus and Timotheus as with him and joining in the messages, but ii. 18; iii. 5; iv. 9; and v. 22; show who the real writer is. The two other names are those of the Apostle's fellow-labourers in Thessalonica. Silvanus, or Silas, had (as Acts xvi. tells us) been St. Paul's fellow-sufferer in Philippi; and Timothy had, as this Epistle testifies, done work among the Thessalonians. They could bear testimony to the Apostle's feelings, and could, and did join in his prayers and praises. Paul was the writer.

You will observe that he takes no official title. When writing to the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, Timothy, and Titus, he describes