

2 Thess 1:1-5 Dateline Meter

Note: **teal underline** = infra-doc or weblink. **Red underline**=pronounce as one syllable. **Orange** counts are 7'd factors; **purple**, factors of 3.

Latest master summary of Bible dateline meters, with links to all the related docs and videos: <http://www.brainout.net/LukeDatelineMeters.pdf>

Infra-doc Links xxx xxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx

CNTTS apparatus in Bibleworks 9: verse 1 first *hemon* excluded, though in UBS text. Paul by design datelines with the same greeting; *hemon* wasn't in 1 Thess, so is excluded here, too. First *kai* is in Aleph and #209, but is excluded (same re v.5, but is in #1315). V.4's *tes* is in #1242 and 1505, but is excluded. If the phrase *ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς [ἡμῶν]* excluded from UBS of 1 Thess were also excluded here, meter changes dramatically (last column).

	Syllable Count	Cumulative		
¹ Παῦλος καὶ Σιλουανὸς καὶ Τιμόθεος	12	12		
τῆ ἐκκλησίᾳ Θεσσαλονικέων ἐν θεῷ καὶ πατρὶ ἡμῶν	16	28		
καὶ κυρίῳ Ἰησοῦ Χριστῷ,	7	35		
² χάρις ὑμῖν καὶ εἰρήνη ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς [ἡμῶν]	15	50	7	42
καὶ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.	7	57		49
³ Εὐχαριστεῖν ὀφείλομεν τῷ θεῷ πάντοτε περὶ ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί,	21	78		70
καθὼς ἄξιόν ἐστιν, ὅτι ὑπεραυξάνει ἡ πίστις ὑμῶν	19	97		89
καὶ πλεονάζει ἡ ἀγάπη ἐνὸς ἐκάστου πάντων ὑμῶν εἰς ἀλλήλους,	22	119		111
⁴ ὥστε αὐτοὺς ἡμᾶς ἐν ὑμῖν ἐγκαυχᾶσθαι ἐν ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις τοῦ θεοῦ	22	141		133
ὑπὲρ τῆς ὑπομονῆς ὑμῶν καὶ τῆς πίστεως	13	154		146
ἐν πᾶσιν τοῖς διωγμοῖς ὑμῶν	9	163		155
καὶ ταῖς θλίψεσιν αἷς ἀνέχεσθε,	10	173		165
⁵ ἕνδειγμα τῆς δικαίας κρίσεως τοῦ θεοῦ	12	185		177
εἰς τὸ καταξιωθῆναι καὶ ὑμᾶς τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ θεοῦ,	18	203		195
ὑπὲρ ἧς καὶ πάσχετε,	7	210		202

Meter Import

Paul writes:

- o same dateline meters as [1 Thess](#), 4160 1st (Adamic/autumnal year) quarter, Winter AD 53/54, maybe at or just after the Lord's birthday, since the 1 Thess '53' was based on the Abrahamic schedule, but the '57' here is His actual age, 4160-57=4103 when He was actually born. Bible's age convention is 'last birthday'. (Google on that term if you don't know it, means that until your next birthday occurs, your 'age' is as of your *last* birthday, not nearest. However, the way Bible numbers suddenly are one short or over, tells you if the person is *near his next birthday*, as shown here.)
- o Textual variants make a big difference here. Third column shows what the meter would be if *ἀπὸ θεοῦ πατρὸς [ἡμῶν]* were excluded; however, if the text is included (and it is the default UBS text), then you get the second column of meter aggregates, and they look very intentional.
- o On the other hand, if you exclude that phrase: then to get the text to end with a sevening, would mean adding one but not both, of the remaining two exclusions in verse 4 or 5. But neither addition provides two datelines, so those two extra words, are suspect. Neither is in the UBS text.
- o Finally, excluded but in the UBS text, was the first ~~ἡμῶν~~. It's excluded here, because the 2nd letter is written within a month or two of the first, the meter and its formulas are all the same as for 1 Thess, so it's very doubtful Paul would add the word (not needed for meaning or context, already understood). If it were added, all the meter falls apart. Inclusion alters Paul's stress on God as THE Father and Christ as THE Lord, *not* merely 'ours'. The meter should be allowed to be determinative (not a sole criterion, but certainly more provable than 'majority' prevalence in mss, especially where the meaning doesn't change).
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