Contents

Preface	х
Abbreviations	xvii
Bibliography	xix
Introduction	1
The "Metropolis" of Macedonia and Its History	1
Authorship, Date, and Occasion of the Letters	9
The Epistolary and Rhetorical Situation of the Thessalonian Correspondence	16
The Social Situation of Paul and His Converts in Thessalonike	36
COMMENTARY ON 1 THESSALONIANS	
Epistolary Prescript — 1.1	47
The Exordium — 1.2-3 — A Preview of Coming Attractions	52
The Narratio — The Story Thus Far — 1.4-3.10	60
A CLOSER LOOK: Election, Persecution, and Perseverance in 1 and 2 Thessalonians	65
A CLOSER LOOK: Was Paul Anti-Semitic?	84

Bridging the Horizons	97
Transitus — Closing Wish Prayer — 3.11-13	101
The Exhortatio — A Call to Holiness and Hope — 4.1-5.15	106
Part One: The Call to Holiness and Brotherly Love — 4.1-8, 9-12	109
A CLOSER LOOK: Holy Wedlock and Unholy Alliances	114
A CLOSER LOOK: A Christian Manual on Manual Labor?	122
Part Two: The Call to Hope and Alertness: The Tale of Sleepers Dead and Living — 4.13–5.11	125
A CLOSER LOOK: The Fate of the Dead	126
A CLOSER LOOK: Parousia	142
Bridging the Horizons	154
Part Three: Honor the Workers and the Work — 5.12-15	159
The Peroratio — Parting Shots — 5.16-22	164
The Invocation/Wish Prayer — The God of Peace Who Sanctifies — 5.23-24	171
Epistolary Closing — 5.25-28	175
Bridging the Horizons	177
COMMENTARY ON 2 THESSALONIANS	
Epistolary Prescript — 1.1-2	183
The Exordium/Thanksgiving Prayer — 1.3-10 — The Destiny of the Sacred Sufferers and the Terrible Tormentors	186
Propositio — 1.11-12 — Persuasion by a Praying Proposition	199
Bridging the Horizons	201

C	
Contents	1X
Conticitis	17

Refutatio — 2.1-12 — Prelude to the Parousia	205
A CLOSER LOOK: Exercising Restraint: Apocalyptic Answers to Difficult Questions	208
Bridging the Horizons	226
Prayer Matters — 2.13–3.5	230
Thanksgiving/Firm Living — 2.13-15	231
A CLOSER LOOK: On Doing Theology in Ad Hoc Letters	235
Transitus: Another Wish Prayer — 2.16-17	238
Final Request — 3.1-5	240
Working Hypothesis — 3.6-12	245
Peroratio — 3.13-15 — On Shunning and Shaming without Excommunicating	254
	254 258
Excommunicating	
Excommunicating Epistolary Closing — 3.16-18 A CLOSER LOOK: The Ancient Art and Labor	258
Excommunicating Epistolary Closing — 3.16-18 A CLOSER LOOK: The Ancient Art and Labor of Letter Writing	258 259