

**This is the second letter that Paul wrote to the Thessalonian people. The first letter contained much information about the Lord coming for His bride, the church. He continues that topic in this second letter as well. How close is the end? What will happen? Who or what should we be looking for? Paul has a concern that they, and you, understand these events. II Thessalonians will help us understand more of the details of that special day.**

#### DAY ONE

We have been blessed to have easy access to the Word of God, and we sometimes take that for granted. Have you ever stopped to think about how His word came to us? Men, inspired by God, guided by the Holy Spirit, wrote the words God breathed to instruct us and teach us how to live. Then there were thousands who gave their lives to protect those words and bring them to us today. God desires us to know His heart and every word that was penned has a purpose, and if we seek, through the Holy Spirit, God's truth, He will reveal it to us.

This is why it is important to study the Word of God inductively. It takes time, patience, and prayer. We begin with observation — lots of observation. Once we have taken the time to properly observe Scripture, then we can move into interpretation and application. In our world of instant gratification, much of the church would much rather read a book written by some other person that tells us what the Bible says and how we are to apply it to our lives. We are entrusting our spiritual well being to someone we don't know. They may be right, but they may also be wrong. If you desire to be a workman that doesn't need to be ashamed, you need to know how to study so you can accurately handle God's Word. That means that you and I have the responsibility to take the time to thoroughly observe God's Word.

As you begin your study of II Thessalonians, you need to be diligent to do a thorough observation. That means starting with an overview of the book as a whole, so you can set the context of the book and some of the more difficult passages. You will spend this week becoming familiar with II Thessalonians. You are going to look for things like:

- 1) **Who** is the author of II Thessalonians, and what do we learn about him?
- 2) **Who** are the recipients, and what do we learn about them?
- 3) **When** was this book written?
- 4) **Why** did the author write what he did? What was his purpose?
- 5) **What** did he write about? What is the main theme of the book?

This is like a puzzle. You start a puzzle by finding the corner pieces. They are easy to find, and they set the parameters of your puzzle. Then you move to the edges. They are also easy to find, and they build the frame of your puzzle this is the context of your book. Think of finding your author and recipients and information you can glean about them as finding your four corner pieces. As you discover the setting of when the book was written, the purpose of why it was written, and the main themes of the book, you have now constructed the framework of the book. All the teachings of the book are held within the context of the framework that was created.

Are you ready to begin? Then let's dig in.

1. Be sure to begin each day of your study with prayer. Ask God to open your mind and your heart to hear truth and give you a teachable spirit.
2. You have been given II Thessalonians observation worksheets. These are worksheets. You will be marking them and recording information on them as you study. Let's start by reading through the three chapters of II Thessalonians. After you have read it straight through, write your impressions of the book.
3. Read through the book again, this time mark every reference to the author as well as any pronouns that refer to him. I underline the author in blue in my study, but you can mark it anyway you want. After you have finished, go back and read through the book and record anything that you learn about the author on the "Observation" pages on page 7.
4. On page 10 you will find "II Thessalonians At a Glance" chart. Record the name of the author(s).
5. Have you learned anything about the author that you might be able to personally apply to your life? How might this help you in your walk with the Lord?

### DAY TWO

1. Start by reading straight through the book of II Thessalonians again. Repetition is the key to learning. You are becoming more familiar with the book as a whole, every time you do this.
2. Today you are going to read through the book again. This time you are going to mark all the mentions of the recipients and pronouns that refer to them. I underline the recipients in green.
3. When you have completed marking the recipients, read through the book again and record all that you learn about the recipients on page 7.
4. On page 10 record the name of the recipients on "II Thessalonians At a Glance" chart.
5. Let's talk about the historical setting. Have you seen anything that would indicate what was going on at the time that this book or letter was written that may help you determine the setting? This could be mentions of rulers, a time of persecution, before or after they had gone someplace or had a specific experience. Make any notes on the "Observations" chart on page 8.
6. Summarize your information of when this was written and record it on page 10.
7. You may have noticed after reading II Thessalonians about five times now that certain words have occurred over and over again. These are key words. Key words play an important part to showing the purpose of the writing. If you would remove these words you would lose the meaning of the text. Record some of those words below.

## DAY THREE

Today you are going to look for and mark key words. You are looking for words that are mentioned in various chapters since you are looking at the book as a whole. If the word is used several times in one chapter only, you don't want to include that word now. You will be completing chapter studies later at which time you can mark those. Any mention of the Godhead is a key word. Sometimes it can become overwhelming to mark them as you complete this overview of the entire book. You can mark these when you complete your chapter studies instead of now, but it is entirely up to you. I mark God with a purple triangle, Jesus with a red cross, and the Holy Spirit with a purple dove. Keep your markings simple and if you can't think of a symbol that will help you recognize the word, using boxes, circles, and triangles work. Use a different color and shape for each word so they stand out.

1. Yesterday you wrote down a couple of words that were repeated throughout the book. Start by marking those. I take an index card and write on the top - "Key Words - (name of the book)". Then write the word or phrase that you are marking along with the symbol you decided to use so that you are sure to mark it the same every time. You may be able to read through the book and mark a couple of words at a time, or you may want to only mark one word at a time and read the book once for every word that is marked. As you read and mark one word, you will begin to see others popping up as well. Record those here and go back and mark them as well. With patience and diligence work through this assignment. Remember it is setting the context of your book and it will help you discover the purpose of this letter.
2. Now that you marked your key words, you are going to go back and look at each one (the should be easily distinguishable with their individual markings) and make a list about what you learn about that word. Include chapter and verse in which the information was found. These lists are important because it shows the teaching on each of these topics. You can keep your lists on separate pieces of notebook paper, or on a list in your computer.

## DAY FOUR

You need to understand the purpose of the letter. What was on the author's heart that he desired to share with his readers? Sometimes authors tell you plainly, "I am writing this because . . ." Look at John 20:30-31; I John 5:13; and Luke 1:3-4.

Other times the author is not so clear in his purpose. When the purpose is not clearly stated, there are several things you can watch for to determine the reason for writing. Key words, instructions, warnings, exhortations can all lead us to the author's purpose. Follow these steps carefully and complete one step before moving on to the next. Remember that completing a thorough observation of the text is the most important and critical step in correctly interpreting and applying what you learn. Be diligent, and you will be blessed.

1. Read through II Thessalonians and watch for any exhortations (encouragements) that the author gives. This is where the author becomes a cheering section of sorts. Underline these or number them in a specific color (but not blue or green since you already underlined with those colors). Record these exhortations on page 8.
2. Now read through the book again and look for any instructions (commands) that the author may give. Underline these or number them. Record these on page 8.
3. Read through II Thessalonians again, this time watch for any problems that the author may address. Underline these or number them. Record these on page 9.
4. Have any other key words appeared as you have done your work? If so, list them here and go back and mark them. Write your key words on the "At a Glance" chart on page 10.
5. Now record the main topics or subjects that the author covers on page 9.
6. What are the main themes that are covered in this book? You can record those on page 9.
7. Look at your "Observation" sheets and see if you can determine the purpose for which this letter was written. You can record this on page 9 and page 10.
8. Look at the topics that are covered in each individual chapter, and see if you can find the main idea of that chapter. If you can find the main idea of the chapter, then give the chapter a title based on your observations. Try to use words directly out of a verse for your title, if possible. Record these chapter titles on the "At a Glance" chart on page 10.

9. Did anything you have read in this book, touch your heart in a special way? Is there anything that you didn't understand? Are there questions that you have? Record them here.

#### DAY FIVE

1. Read through II Thessalonians one last time for this week. Is it beginning to feel like an old friend? It should be. Is there anything that you haven't completed in the first four days? Is so take the time to do that now.
2. As stated at the beginning of this lesson, this is the second letter that was written. Read through I Thessalonians and answer these questions.
  - a. What was the relationship between the author and the recipients?
  - b. Why did the author write the first letter?
  - c. Are any of the same topics covered in both letters?

## Observations of II Thessalonians

**Author:**

**Recipients:**

**Setting (when written):**

**Exhortations (encouragements):**

**Instructions (commands):**



**Problems:**

**Key Words:**

**Topics:**

**Themes:**

**Purpose for writing:**

## II Thessalonians At a Glance

**Book Title:**

**Author:**

**Chapter Titles:**

**When Written:**

**Purpose:**

<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>

**Key Words:**

**Does it seem like your life is full of pain and suffering? Are there people who make your life difficult because they can't understand your stand for Christ? Have you ever felt alone in your suffering? Like no one can understand what you are going through? Are you ready to give up?**

**Paul is here to tell you that you are not alone! Jesus understands your pain. So does Paul. So do the people that made up the church in Thessalonica. So do your brothers and sisters in Christ. Let me say it again. YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

## DAY ONE

1. You can't judge a book by its cover or its size. II Thessalonians may only have 47 verses but it has a powerful message for you today. Give this book the time it deserves to be observed and allow it to wash over your heart and mind. Read this letter out loud. Hear what it has to say. When you read something out loud and you read it through many times, you tend to be able to remember it better because you have involved more of your senses, it becomes part of you. This is a good place to start for this week. After you begin with prayer, read II Thessalonians out loud two or three times. Give the words a chance to soak in.
2. Now read through just II Thessalonians 1 on your Observation Worksheets. Make sure that you have all your key words marked from last week. If you missed any, now is the time to mark them. Remember that you are just focusing on chapter 1 at this time. Is there a word or phrase that is repeated just in this chapter? If so, then you want to take the time to mark these as well.
3. Now that your key words are marked, you are going to make a list of everything you learn about each one. Use a separate piece of paper, and write your key word on the top. Then list all that you learn about that word from chapter one. You want to do this for all of your key words in chapter one. Your papers may look something like this.

### God

- 1:1 - God is our Father
- 1:2 - God gives us grace and peace
- 1:3 - we should give thanks to God

### Afflictions

- 1:4 - need to persevere and have faith amid your persecutions and afflictions
- 1:4 - we need to endure
- 1:6 - God will repay those who afflict us with affliction



4. Is it necessary to suffer as a Christian? I thought life was supposed to be a walk in the park, filled with nothing but good times and blessings if we become a Christian. Isn't that what most people lead us to believe? Let's look at just a couple of verses to see what God's Word says about this subject?

a. Philippians 1:29-30

b. John 16:33

c. II Timothy 3:12

5. Why is there all this suffering and affliction? Where does it come from? Let these verses prepare you for the battle that will inevitably come for those who confess Jesus Christ as their Lord. Keep these verses in context which may mean that you need to read some verses before and after the listed references. Note who is talking in each passage, who they are talking to, and what is being said.

a. Matthew 10:16-25

b. Matthew 10:34-40

c. Luke 12:51-53

d. John 15:16-25

e. John 17:14-18

f. II Timothy 3:10-13

### DAY THREE

If suffering has to come, and we are called to endure, there must be a purpose in it all, right? Yes, friend, there is a purpose in it. Let's take time to read through some verses and discover the purpose. Take your time as you work through these verses, and give God the opportunity to teach you through them. Allow God's truth to wash away the wrong and selfish teaching that permeates the world today, including the church.

1. James 1:2-4 - Read these verses carefully and record everything they teach you about suffering. Ask yourself the 5 W's and the H.

2. I Peter 1:6-9 - Do the same thing for this passage.

3. I Peter 4:12-19

a. What do you learn about suffering and judgment from this passage?

b. Did you take note to the phrase "obey the gospel of God" in verse 17? Do you see any parallels to II Thessalonians? What do you think this phrase means?

c. Do you think that people who profess to know Christ would suffer if they did not obey the gospel? Explain why you think they would or wouldn't.





DAY FOUR

1. Are you hurting? Are you suffering? Sometimes, pouring your heart out to God will help you to be able to get through that pain. Verbalizing how you are feeling is part of the acceptance and healing process. Write out your prayer to God. Tell him what you are thinking and how you feel. If you don't feel comfortable doing this in this workbook, do it on another piece of paper.

2. When you suffer, you need to realize that you are not alone. Read Hebrews 5:7-9 and note what you learn.

Again, don't miss the word "obey." How does this compare to what you have seen in II Thessalonians?

3. Let's put some application to these Scriptures. How do you think God uses these hurts to make you "worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering?" What Christlike qualities could be forged in you through your fiery afflictions?

#### DAY FIVE

1. According to II Thessalonians 1, what is going to happen to those who persecute or afflict Christians? Note how this is described and when this will occur.
2. Do you think that this is fair of God? Explain why you feel this way.

3. What have you learned that can help you through the trials in your life, or help you to minister to others who are suffering?

4. Carefully read through Psalm 73. The first 16 verses of this Psalm could sound like you or me in the midst of our struggles. You can feel the helplessness, the sense of unfairness in the writer's words. He looks around and wonders, "WHY?" Sound familiar? As you come to the end of this passage you see a shift of attitude.

a. What causes this shift in attitude according to verse 17?

b. Isn't it amazing at the change in perspective when we take our eyes off of our problems and focus them squarely on God. Our attitude changes. We realize that God is still in control. From verse 17 to the end of the chapter, list what the writer perceives about the end of the wicked people as well as his position in God.

The End of the Wicked	Position in God

5. When you are hurting, suffering, or confused, run to the Psalms. These are praises to God for who He is and what He has done. They are a reminder to us to keep a proper perspective and focus. Stop looking at the problems and start looking to the sovereign God who is the Creator and Sustainer of all we observe. Let Him reveal to us His majesty, His greatness, and His power. Let Him remind us of who He is and how trivial the burdens of this life truly are in comparison to eternity. As you run to the Psalms, make a list of passages that can help you in your times of distress. Keep adding to your list on a daily basis, and post them where you will be reminded constantly that we serve an awesome and sovereign God, and if He can control the world and the heavens and all we survey, surely He is capable of watching over us as well. I am going to start your list off with a great passage.

Psalm 9:7-10

*But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment,  
And He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.*

*The LORD also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, A stronghold in times of trouble;  
And those who know Your name will put their trust in You, For You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.*

**We need to understand this idea of the coming of the Lord and our being gathered together with Him. In order to understand this concept we need to have a solid understanding of the second chapter of II Thessalonians; therefore, we will be giving this chapter two weeks.**

DAY ONE

Chapter two reveals some very important information about the timing of the day of the Lord. You need to do a very careful observation of this chapter. Remember, correct interpretation is going to come from a thorough observation. Meditate on the things that you are observing, and make sure to always be asking yourself the 5 W's and H.

1. Make sure that you have marked these key words or phrases.
  - a. Day of the Lord
  - b. Man of lawlessness
  
2. Make a list of what you learn about these two phrases.

Day of the Lord	Man of Lawlessness



## DAY TWO

We are going to do some word studies today. Last week, we went over how to do these. Remember to write the number that corresponds with the word, then the transliteration (the English spelling of the Greek word), and then the definition that you find for this word. It is also very important that you check out the verb tense, voice, and mood for each verb, because that is vitally important for interpretation! Knowing that you may not have The Complete Word Study New Testament, I am going to give you the tense, voice, and mood of each word that is a verb, and you can check that out on the chart at the end of this lesson on pages 26 and 27. Here's a sales pitch. The chart comes out of the International Inductive Study Bible that we use at the ministry. You can't beat this Bible for study aids like this. Also, The Complete Word Study New Testament is a valuable study tool. All this information would be in that book.

1. Coming - II Thessalonians 2:1, 8, 9 (compare II Thessalonians 1:10 - come - aorist subjunctive passive)

2. Gathering together - II Thessalonians 2:1

3. Apostasy (falling away, KJV) - II Thessalonians 2:3





8. Mystery - II Thessalonians 2:7

9. Judged (damned, KJV) - II Thessalonians 2:12 (compare II Thessalonians 1:5 - judgment) - aorist subjunctive passive

10. Did you see judgment mentioned anywhere else in the book of II Thessalonians? Go back through all three chapters and list everything you learn about judgment, just from this book alone. Make sure to ask your 5 W's and H questions.

## Tenses in Greek

<b>Tense</b>	<b>Kind of Action</b>	<b>Example</b>
Present	Continuous action	Jeff is studying the Bible.
Imperfect	continuous action in the past	Jeff was studying the Bible.
Perfect	Punctiliar action in the past with the results continuing into the present	Jeff is being transformed by having studied the Bible.
Pluperfect	Punctiliar action in the past with the results continuing in the past	Jeff was transformed because he had studied the Bible.
Aorist	Punctiliar action (the time can be past, present, or future but is generally past.)	Jeff studied the Bible.
Future	Generally continuous action in the future, but it can be punctiliar.	Jeff will be studying his Bible.

## Voices in Greek

<b>Voice</b>	<b>How the subject is related to the action</b>	<b>Example</b>
Active	Indicates that the subject produces the action.	Jeff hit the ball.
Passive	Indicates that the subject is acted upon	Jeff was hit by the ball.
Middle	Indicates that the subject initiates the action and participates in the results of the action	Jeff hit himself with the ball.

## Moods in Greek

Mood	Relation to Reality	Usage or Meaning	Example
Indicative	Mood of certainty (reality)	Used to declare a statement of fact as something which is true. Expresses that which is actual, factual, or real from the speaker's point of view.	Bible study has changed Jeff's life.
Imperative	Mood of violation or will (potential reality)	Usually used to express a command or entreaty. Denotes intention, authority, permission, or prohibition	Jeff, study your homework.
Subjunctive	Mood of probability (probable reality)	Used to express an action which may or should happen but which is not necessarily true at the present, from the speaker's point of view. Expresses conditional or uncertain actions	Jeff may have done his work.
Optative	Mood of possibility (possible reality)	Merely presents an action as conceivable from the speaker's point of view, with no definite anticipation of realization.	I wish my neighbor, Jeff, would take the Precept Bible Studies.

## Prohibitions

This is when the speaker states a negative command.

Prohibition	Definition	Example
Present imperative (used with a negative)	This prohibition demands cessation of some act already in progress.	John 20:17
Aorist subjunctive (used with a negative)	This prohibition is a warning or exhortation against doing a thing not yet begun.	John 13:8

### DAY THREE

From the day of Pentecost to this present day, God has been preparing a bride for His Son: the church. The church is made up of Jews and Gentiles who have believed on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, placing them into the body of Christ so that they are members of one another with Christ being their head.

If you are not thoroughly familiar with this concept, you might do well to stop right here and take a couple of minutes to read through Ephesians chapter two and three.

What we want to do is look at the future of the church, the bride, and how that compares with the day of the Lord talked about in II Thessalonians 2.

1. On pages 35 and 36 you will find an observation worksheet on I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11. As you carefully read through this passage, mark key repeated words. Make sure you mark "asleep" (also referred to as the "dead in Christ") as one of those key words/phrases.
2. Philippians 1:21-24 and II Corinthians 5:6-8 tell us what happens when a Christian dies. Look up these verses and write out all that you learn about them.

3. According to I Thessalonians 4:13-18

a. What is going to happen to the "dead in Christ"?

b. Who are the "dead in Christ", and how do you know from this passage?

c. Who are those who "are alive and remain"? Explain.

4. List the chronology of events as recorded in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 on the chart at the bottom of this page.

5. Now look up I Corinthians 15:51-54. List everything that you learn from these verses and note any parallels that you see between the two passages. (The events of these passages are usually referred to as the "rapture of the church". Rapture is never found in the Bible. It comes from the Latin word *rapio* which means to carry off; therefore, "rapture" has become the word used by the church to describe the catching up of the saints to be with the Lord.)

Events in I Thessalonians 4:13-18	Parallel in I Corinthians 15:51-54

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

1. Today we are going to look at I Thessalonians 5:1-11 and see what Paul had told these people about the day of the Lord. Remember to use your observation worksheet on page 36-37. Read these verses carefully, and mark every reference to the day of the Lord. Ask your 5 W's and H, and list everything you can about that day. Also note any promises that the Lord gives in these verses.

Day of the Lord	Promises

2. Now read through this whole passage I Thessalonians 4:13-5:1, and watch the flow of thought. Note what the Thessalonians are to know and what they are to do. Write them down on the chart below.

Thessalonians Are to Know	Thessalonians Are to Do

3. Take the time to think through what Paul had told this church in his first letter to them as well as what he taught them in person. How does what Paul teaches the Thessalonians in I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 regarding their being together with the Lord and the day of the Lord relate to what he writes them in II Thessalonians? Be as thorough as possible in your answer.

4. Before drawing any conclusions on the church's relationship to the day of the Lord, we want to look at the church's relationship to the wrath of God. Note what you learn in each of these verses.

a. Romans 5:9

b. I Thessalonians 1:9-10

c. I Thessalonians 5:9-10

5. Do you see any relationship between the wrath of God and the day of the Lord?



6. There are many passages that we could look at to gather information about the day of the Lord, but that will wait until we embark on the study of Revelation. Right now, we want to understand why these people were shaken and disturbed at the report that they were in the day of the Lord.

Read Joel 2 and 3 and record everything you learn about the day of the Lord. Watch for clues about the timing of the "day" and the events that will come before and after it.

### **The Day of the Lord**

7. You are going to look at a couple more passages that speak about the day of the Lord. As you read and observe each one carefully, fill in any information you glean about the day of the Lord on page 33, the list you began from Joel.

a. Acts 2:1-21 - As you study this passage, remember the event being described in this passage occurs on the day of Pentecost, and Pentecost marks the beginning of the church where every member of the body of Christ is indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God.

b. II Peter 3:7-13

8. Now let's go back to II Thessalonians two. Read the chapter carefully and list all the things which must occur before the day of the Lord begins.

9. With everything you have studied this week, what do you think the church's relationship is to the day of the Lord? Use Scripture to support your answer.

## I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

- 13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.
- 14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.
- 15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- 16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.
- 18** Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- 5:1** Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.
- 2** For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.
- 3** While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.
- 4** But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;
- 5** for you are all sons of light and sons of day We are not of night nor of darkness;

- 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.
- 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.
- 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.
- 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.
- 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

## How then shall we pray in the light of His coming?

### DAY ONE AND DAY TWO

1. Read through the entire book of II Thessalonians again. Read it as though you were sitting down to read a letter a good friend just sent to you. As you read this, watch for Paul's pattern as he writes; note why he is writing and the issues that concern him.
2. Do your Observation Worksheet on II Thessalonians 3. Read carefully. Mark key words. Make lists of what you learned about the words you marked. Note contrasts and comparisons, time references. Ask yourself the 5W's and H as you work your way through this chapter. Allow God to use His Word to cleanse you with the washing of the water of the Word.

### DAY THREE

1. As you read through II Thessalonians again, you will notice that several times Paul gives thanks to God or mentioned that he was praying on behalf of the Thessalonians. He also requests prayer on behalf of Silvanus, Timothy, and himself. Today, look at where Paul gives thanks or prays on behalf of the Thessalonians.
2. On pages 40-44 you will find a chart entitled "The Place of Preventive Prayer and Thanksgiving." Using this chart, list these prayers in the order in which they occur. List what Paul requests or gives thanks for. Don't go beyond the content of the prayer.
3. Write out I Timothy 2:1-4 below. Note who is to be prayed for and why. This passage helps us to understand why Paul prayed the way he did. It can help us in our prayer life as well.

DAY FOUR

1. When someone tells you that they give thanks to God for you, aren't you encouraged? Sometimes God uses it as an encouragement to press on to godliness or as an exhortation not to fall from steadfastness. How would Paul's words serve to encourage those in Thessalonica? Look at your chart from yesterday. Would those words be an encouragement to you?
2. Now read through I Thessalonians and look for the specific prayers in that book as well. Record them on the chart, the same way you did yesterday.
3. If there are any words or terms in Paul's prayers that you do not understand, take a couple of minutes and do word studies on those words. Record what you learn in the space below.

4. There are a couple of other passages to read on prayer. As you read these passages, note any pertinent information on the chart on pages 40-44.
  - a. Romans 15:30-33
  - b. II Corinthians 1:11 (look at verses 8-11)
  - c. Philippians 1:19-20
  - d. Hebrews 13:18-19
  - e. II Thessalonians 3:1-2

#### DAY FIVE

1. Have you ever struggled in your prayer life? Do you find yourself slipping into a rut and you pray the same old things. We are going to look at a couple more of Paul's letters and see how his prayers can help us in our prayer life. List what you learn about each of these prayers on the charts on pages 40-44. Take your time, and let the Lord speak to your heart. This might open a whole new world of prayer to you.
  - a. Romans 1:8-12
  - b. I Corinthians 1:4-9
  - c. Ephesians 1:15-23
  - d. Ephesians 3:14-21
  - e. Philippians 1:3-4, 9-11
  - f. Colossians 1:3-14 (one of my favorites)
  - g. II Timothy 1:3-4
  - h. Philemon 1:4-7
  - i. Hebrews 13:20-21
2. Take time to look over your chart. You will be blessed by all that you see. Pray for others in your life, using Paul's prayers as an example. Lift up your brothers and sisters in Christ. Encourage them by sharing with them that you gave thanks to God for them.

# The Place of Preventive Prayer and Thanksgiving

Reference	Content of Thanksgiving/Prayer	Why These Requests	What I learned



# The Place of Preventive Prayer and Thanksgiving

Reference	Content of Thanksgiving/Prayer	Why These Requests	What I learned

# The Place of Preventive Prayer and Thanksgiving

Reference	Content of Thanksgiving/Prayer	Why These Requests	What I learned

# The Place of Preventive Prayer and Thanksgiving

Reference	Content of Thanksgiving/Prayer	Why These Requests	What I learned

# The Place of Preventive Prayer and Thanksgiving

Reference	Content of Thanksgiving/Prayer	Why These Requests	What I learned



b. According to II Thessalonians 3:1-5, what assurance of protection from the evil one do we have?

c. Is there any responsibility on our part?

4. Read Matthew 6:9-13. The word "evil" in verse 13 could be translated "the evil one." How does this correlate with what you have seen today?

If you did not know it, we are in a spiritual battle, folks. We need to learn how to stand firm in the midst of it. There is a great study by Precepts called "Lord Is It Warfare, Teach Me To Stand." I would strongly recommend this course to anyone!

DAY TWO

1. Do you think that there is any relationship between the evil one, evil men, and trials or temptations? Look up the following verses, and write what you learn from each one of them that you will be able to apply to your own life. Check the context of each one so you know who is speaking and to whom. Record this as well.

a. John 8:23, 40, 42-44

b. Ephesians 6:10-18

c. John 17:14-22

2. Read I Peter 5:8-11 and answer the following questions.

a. What does the devil (the evil one) cause or bring?

b. What are Peter's specific instructions in this passage?

c. How does this parallel with the situation in II Thessalonians?

d. What is the end result of warfare? Or what can be accomplished as you do what God tells you to do in I Peter and II Thessalonians?

3. List at least four things that you have learned about the evil one and warfare that you can apply to your life.



DAY THREE

1. Read through II Thessalonians 3 again. As you do, if you have not marked the words unruly or undisciplined (disorderly, KJV), do that now.
2. Look up these words in your word study books. Record what you learn.
  
3. In II Thessalonians 3:6 Paul gives a sharp command. Why? Explain to the best of your ability.
  
4. Let's do some word studies on the following words to help give us a clearer picture of what Paul is talking about in this passage. Record the number, the transliteration, and the definitions. Take special note as to why God uses the tenses that He does. Remember that you can go back to the chart located on pages 26 and 27 to help you with this assignment.
  - a. II Thessalonians 3:6 - keep aloof (withdraw, KJV) - present middle active
  
  - b. II Thessalonians 3:6 - leads (walketh, KJV) - present active participle
  
  - c. II Thessalonians 3:7 - follow - present middle infinitive

d. II Thessalonians 3:8 - kept working (wrought, KJV) - present middle participle

e. II Thessalonians 3:9 - model (example, KJV)

f. II Thessalonians 3:11 - acting like busybodies (are busybodies, KJV) - present middle participle

g. II Thessalonians 3:12 - to work in quiet fashion (with quietness they work, KJV) - present middle participle

h. II Thessalonians 3:14 - obey - present active indicative

i. II Thessalonians 3:14 - take special note (note, KJV) - present middle imperative

j. II Thessalonians 3:14 - do not associate (have no company, KJV) - present middle infinitive

k. II Thessalonians 3:15 - admonish - present active imperative

5. How disciplined is your life? This is a question asked at the beginning of this week. Let's take a practical look at it. You need to make this a priority and be absolutely honest with yourself. For the next three days keep track of how you spend your time. Make sure that one of those days is a Saturday or Sunday - whatever day you don't follow your normal daily routine. List how many hours you spend doing the following things:

	Day 1 _____ (Day of week)	Day 2 _____ (Day of week)	Day 3 _____ (Day of week)
Sleeping			
Eating			
Working			
Television			
Prayer/Bible Study			
Recreation/Leisure			
Time with children (if applicable)			

It would be great for you to keep a log like this for a week or two to be able to evaluate how you are using your time. It may be an eye-opening experience.

#### DAY FOUR

1. Was slothfulness regarding work a new problem to the church of Thessalonica? Look up I Thessalonians 4:9-12.
  - a. What were Paul's instructions then?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Does it look like the problem was solved? Was there a difference in Paul's instructions in II Thessalonians?
  
2. What did Paul command regarding the undisciplined busybodies?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What do you think of Paul's command and why?





c. Look up I Corinthians 13:4-8. List the way that love is demonstrated.

3. Now, think carefully. Can you separate yourself from a brother as described in II Thessalonians 3 and I Corinthians 5:11 and still show love? Explain your answer; don't just say yes or no. It is vitally important that you know how and why you do what you do according to the Scripture.

4. In his admonishments about not eating unless you work, Paul points to himself as a model. Paul did this in other passages; therefore, this must have been a common problem. Look up the following verses and note what you learn:

a. I Thessalonians 2:5-12

b. I Corinthians 9:9-15. Did Paul have to work making tents and doing extra labor in addition to proclaiming the gospel and overseeing the churches?

5. Because Paul lived the way he did, he could say to others, "Follow my example," (Philippians 3:17 and I Corinthians 11:1). Look up these verse and write what Paul was saying in them to the churches and to you!

Well, you made it. I pray that what you have been able to learn through these five weeks will strengthen your faith and your walk in the Lord. I am very glad that you have gained knowledge through this study, but be careful because knowledge puffs up. Allow what you have learned to be used of God to transform your life by the renewing of your mind.