

**Every believer is called to go and make disciples. This is the great commission. It's a Christian's marching orders. But how do we accomplish that in our everyday lives?**

**Paul gives us detailed instructions on both evangelism (sharing Christ) and discipleship (helping believers to grow in their faith) in his first letter to the Thessalonians. As Jesus' return draws near, we need to boldly go into the world, be His light among the nations, and await the blessed hope before us.**

## DAY ONE

You are embarking on an inductive Bible study, a study that allows God to speak through His Word as Scripture interprets Scripture. In order to do that you have to have a grasp of the book you are studying, so we begin by completing a thorough overview. A thorough overview will allow you to set the context of the book. That is our goal for this week's study. We want to get the big picture of the book as a whole before we begin to dissect it chapter by chapter and verse by verse. Every step this week will help us to understand the context of I Thessalonians.

You will find the book of I Thessalonians typed out with plenty of space to mark and jot some notes. These are called Observation Worksheets. These are worksheets! Please use them as such. Mark them up; make notes on them. That is how you will learn!

1. You are approaching the Word of God which is God's recorded message written by men, inspired by God, chosen to impart God's truths to His beloved children. You can only understand these truths when God reveals them to your heart through His Spirit. In order to be taught by the Spirit and walk in the Spirit, you must pray for God to open your eyes of understanding before beginning each day of study. Put on your armor, pick up your sword, prepare your heart for battle through prayer, and let's dive in.
2. Today you are going to begin by reading the whole book of I Thessalonians. Most people tend to view the Bible as a group of books broken up into individual autonomous chapters. They miss the beauty of how the Bible, from start to finish, is God's love-letter to us, to instruct us and show us how to live. If someone you love has taken the time to write to you, you are going to sit down and read the whole letter. You wouldn't read a paragraph or two and then set it aside for a later time.

## I Thessalonians

### Lesson 1, Overview

Approach the letter of I Thessalonians the same way. Read what Paul, inspired by God, has to say in its entirety. It shouldn't take you more than 15-20 minutes. Don't stop to think about it. Just read it straight through. Once you finish, jot down your initial impressions of this letter.

3. There are different literary styles in the Bible, There are prophetic, historical, letters, proverbial, poetic, biographical, and doctrinal books. When reading through I Thessalonians, what type of literature do you think it is?
  
4. Did you answer #3 by saying that I Thessalonians was a letter? If you did, you are correct. Every letter has an author who wrote it and an intended audience (the recipients), the Thessalonians in this case. Read the letter again. This time as you read, you are going to be looking at the author of the letter. As you read, get a colored pencil (I use blue) and underline every reference to the author. It could be his name, a synonym referring to him, or a pronoun like I, me, my, etc. At this point in time, unless you are experienced at this type of study, I would encourage you not to be concerned about plural pronouns like "we" or "us." When you are done reading through the book and marking the author, record what you learn by asking the 5 W's and H questions (who, what, where, when, why, and how) about the author. Just look for the obvious things that you learn about him at this time. Fill in what you learn on the chart entitled "Author and Recipients" on the next page in the column labeled "Author." Don't forget to indicate chapter and verse of where you found your information.

### Author & Recipients

Author	Recipients

DAY TWO

1. Remember to start your time in prayer and then read through I Thessalonians again. This time you are going to look for the recipients of this letter and mark them. I underline mine in green. Mark any references of their name or synonyms and pronouns referring to them. This time you are going to look for pronouns like “you” or “your”. When you are done, record what you learn on page 3 by asking the 5 W’s and H about the recipients. Do the best you can and know that you are learning with each step you take. It will be well worth your effort in the end.
2. If you have ever received a letter, note, or message from someone, it has probably left you with a certain feeling. It may have been excitement, joy, anxiety, anger, hurt, or a combination of these feelings. This is called the atmosphere. Read through I Thessalonians again. As you read and think about what you have learned about the author and recipients, how would you describe the atmosphere of this letter?
3. This assignment may be a little harder, but give it your best shot. Read through I Thessalonians one more time. Keeping in mind all that you have learned to this point about the author, recipients, type of literature, and atmosphere, let’s see what you can learn about the time period in which they lived. This will give you the historical background of the book. Record what you learn about the culture, the time period, and the religious background of the time.
4. You have one last job to do today before we end this lesson. There is an “At a Glance Chart” on the book of I Thessalonians at the end of this lesson on page 10. Fill in the author, recipients, and historical references that could help to pinpoint dates.

## DAY THREE

Studying inductively is like pulling back layers on an onion. You pull off one layer and it exposes the next. So far you have read through the book of I Thessalonians at least five different times. You should read it at least five more times over the next couple of days. You are beginning to acquire a sense of the book and certain topics may have already started to reveal themselves to you. To continue the overview process, we want to focus in on key words. You have already done some of that on day one and two. You marked and made lists of the author and recipients which are, in a letter, key words.

**Introduction to Key Words**

You are going to be looking for key words today. Let me explain what a key word is. A key unlocks a door. A key word unlocks the meaning of the book you are reading. So the question becomes, how do you find a key word? You have probably found some by now, and you are not even aware of them. A key word is an important word that is repeated throughout the book. If that word would be removed, you would lose a big part of the meaning and purpose of the book.

When you find key words, you are going to mark them on your observation worksheets. You want to use different colors and different symbols. There is no right way or wrong way to do this. I am not an artist so I tend to go with simple symbols and shapes like arrows, stars, triangles, squares, underlines, etc. On pages 11-12 of this lesson, I have included sample pages of possible symbols. The important thing is that you use the same symbol and color for a particular word throughout your study. When you do, these key words will pop off the page at you.

When you read through the book looking at and marking one or two key words, you will find even more that strike you. When this happens, read through again and mark those. One warning though. It is a key word to the book when it is mentioned all the way through the book. You may find a word that is repeated in one particular chapter but not the entire book. That word may be a key to that chapter but not to the book itself. We will mark those at a later time. If you mark it now and then realize later that it was only key to that chapter, it's okay. Just don't list that particular word on your list of key words for the book.

Any mention of the Godhead (God, Jesus, Holy Spirit) are always key; however, depending on how many times they are mentioned and how much time you have to put into your study, it may be a bit overwhelming to mark them at this time. If you choose not to mark them now, you will mark them, and make lists about them when we go to the chapter studies later on.

With that background, I believe you are ready for your assignment for today.

1. Read through I Thessalonians and jot down a couple of words that are repeated throughout the book.
2. Determine the symbols that you will use to mark these words. Write these words and their corresponding symbol on an index card that you can use as a bookmark.

Here are two links that gives information on inductive study. The first one is on our site. Under “Handouts” there are two links that give you ideas for marking key words. The other site is for Precept Austin which gives good information about observation and key words.

<https://www.walkinlight.net/inductive-bible-stury> (yes, study is spelled wrong!)  
<https://www.preceptaustin.org/observation#identify%20key%20words>

3. Read through the book again and mark these key words. If, as you are marking, you see other words that are repeated, jot them down here and then read the book again and mark those.
4. Record your key words on the “At a Glance Chart on page 10.

Some of you may be able to mark three or more words at a time. Some of you may only be able to mark one word at a time. Let me encourage you. If you are one that can only mark one at a time, it will take you longer to complete this assignment than other students, but think of the blessings you will have because you have read and struggled over this book many more times. You will be blessed by your effort.

## DAY FOUR

If you have not completed the assignment for key words, please complete that before you move on.

1. When you mark key words, it is important to make a list of what you learn about those words, just like you did for the author and recipient. On another piece of paper, record the key word and then list what you learn about that word remembering to indicate chapter and verse where you found that information. Do that for all the key words that you marked throughout I Thessalonians.
2. Next, you are going to discover general subjects or themes covered in I Thessalonians. The subjects that the author talks about center around those key words you found yesterday. One more layer of that onion is now exposed. Isn't this great? Read through I Thessalonians looking for these themes. Remember that right now you are just looking for things that are obvious. Record these general subjects on the chart on the "At a Glance Chart" on page 10 in the left-hand column entitled "Themes". You are going to do this for each chapter.
3. Looking over what you recorded for step two, do these all tie together into one major theme that runs through the entire book? Record your insights below.
4. You now know the important key words. You know the general topics covered in I Thessalonians. You may have even found a major theme that runs through the whole book. Armed with all this information, read through I Thessalonians one more time and look for the author's purpose in writing the book. In some books like Luke, John, I John, and Jude, the author plainly states the purpose of his writing. Look at Luke 1:1-4, John 20:30-31, I John 5:13, and Jude 3. Other books, the author doesn't come right out and say it. You have to acquire that information from the key words and topics the author covers. When you can see the general theme running through the entire book, you have caught a glimpse of his purpose. This is why I am writing to you! This is what I want you to see! If you can find his purpose, record that on your worksheets on page 10.

5. Are there any questions that this book has raised in your mind? You can record these in the space below. We are not going to answer them right now, but if you have those questions written out, then as you study and wade deeper into this book, you may begin discovering the answers to your questions.

## DAY FIVE

I know that you have done a lot of work this week, but trust me, it is worth it. In the inductive method, there are three steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. In our instant world, we have been trained to do things quickly. Being able to accurately handle the Word of God is not a pursuit that can be attained without ample time. People want to jump to the “I want to know what this means and how it applies to me.” They want someone else to put the time and effort into the observation and just give them the interpretation and application. The truth of the matter is that the time spent observing God’s Word is vital to our Christian walk. If we rely on everyone else to do the work for us, then we have gained little or nothing that can sustain us through life’s trials and hardships. We find ourselves standing on the sand when the storms come wishing that we were on the rock instead. It takes time to build on the rock. The easy, quick path leads to the sand. Persevere and you will stand!

1. Before you start, begin with prayer. Ask God to reveal His truth to your heart.
2. Read straight through the book of I Thessalonians with fresh eyes.
3. Read through the book once again. If you have done all your work this week, that makes at least ten times that you have read it. Is it becoming familiar to you? Is it beginning to feel like an old friend? That is the purpose. Remember - you are gleaning the results of that observation process.



4. Read through each chapter of I Thessalonians individually. As you do, look at what you have recorded on your “At a Glance Chart.” You have recorded the major themes of each chapter already. Now it is time to try to summarize those themes into a chapter title. I record mine in pencil or on my computer, because as I continue to study through the weeks, I may decide to change a title. Record these titles on your “At a Glance Chart.” Here are some suggestions to help you determine a chapter title.
  - a. Try to use no more than four words.
  - b. Use at least one key word in your title.
  - c. Make it distinctive from the other chapter titles.
  - d. Make it descriptive. (it should describe what is in the chapter)
  - e. If possible, use a portion of a particular verse. (that will become your key verse of the chapter).
  
5. Now try to come up with a book title that you will record on the top of your “At a Glance Chart.” Follow the same rules as above. This book title should encompass all the chapter titles. You should be able to see how each of the chapters fits into the book title. Some people do really well with these titles. Others have great difficulty with them. If you are one of those people, that’s okay. The fact that you are wrestling with the assignment is forcing you to think differently about the information you have acquired this week. The more you do this, the easier it becomes. Be assured that you are learning just by going through the process!
  
6. Can you see any divisions in this short book of I Thessalonians? Some books, like Romans can be broken down into smaller sections. Romans 1-11 are doctrinal while chapters 12-16 are practical. Did you notice any of those kinds of divisions in Ephesians? If so, record them below. You could also record them on the “At a Glance Chart.”

*You have spent time this week laying an important foundation on which to build in the weeks to come. This time and dedication to studying the book of I Thessalonians will help you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called - to fulfill that great commission to which every child of the King has been called.*

I Thessalonians - At a Glance Chart

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author:	Themes and Titles Chart			Segment Divisions
	Themes		Titles	
Recipient:		Chapter 1		
Historical References (date):		2		
Purpose:		3		
		4		
Key Words:		5		

God (triangle) Jesus Christ (crossed out) Spirit (Holy Spirit) (cloud) holy (cloud) unholy (crossed out)

covenant (rectangle) bless (cloud) curse (cloud) circumcised (crossed out)

die (death) (arch) Israel (the man, nation, people) (star) sin (iniquity, transgression) (cloud)

remnant (rectangle) land (underline) eternal life (rectangle)

devil (evil spirits, mediums, serpent) (crossed out) (Israel's land given by God)

sign (hexagon) law (commandments) (arch) tabernacle (tent of meeting, temple, house) (rectangle) nations (rectangle)

blood (circle)

righteous (crossed out) unrighteous (crossed out) atonement (rectangle) wrath (crossed out)

redeem (cloud) (redemption, redeemer) the coming of the Lord (His coming) (cloud)

cry (circle) pray (cloud) listen (hear) (cloud) love (heart) (God's love) (heart)

grace (rectangle) suffer (crossed out) (affliction, trial, tribulation) repent (rectangle)












































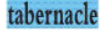




kingdom (God's or man's) (cloud) believe (faith, truth) (cloud)

gospel (cloud) day of the Lord ("that day" if a synonym) (rectangle)

references to time (clock) double underline all geographical locations (underline)

PRECEPT-UPON-PRECEPT

ORIENTATION TO INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

	God, Father, Names of God		Jesus, Son of God, Son of Man, Lamb, Light, Bread, Life		Holy Spirit, God's Spirit, Spirit of God
	Atonement, Atonement, Covered, Covered over		Believe, Faith, Truth		Bless, Blessings
	Blood		Circumcise, Circumcised		Coming of the Lord, His coming
	Covenant, Promise, Agreement		Cross, Crucify, Crucifixion		Cross of Victory
	Crown, Reward		Cry, Weep, Wail		Curse
	Day of the Lord, The Lord's Day, That day		Death, Dead, Die		Satan, Devil, Evil Spirits, demons, Mediums, Serpents
	Eternal life		Evil		Look, See, Behold, Beheld Witnessed
	Judge, Judging, Judgment		God's love		Gospel, Message
	Grace, Loving kindness		Holy, Holiness		Nation of Israel, the land, Hebrews, Jews, Jacob
	Kingdom (God's or man's)		Law, Commandments		Listen, Hear
	Locations, Cities, Countries, Parts of buildings		Love		Nations, Gentiles
	Poured out		Pray, Prayed, Prayer		Rain, Flood
	Redeem, Redemption		Remnant		Repent, Repentance
	Righteous, Righteousness		Signs, Miracles, Wonders		Sin, Iniquity, Transgression
	Suffer		Tabernacle		Time ("until", "then", "when", "after", etc.) Feasts
	"Un-", "Dis-" before a word		Terms of Conclusion (therefore, so, for, finally, wherefore)		Wrath, Anger

**The letters to the Thessalonians are God's love letter to us spoken through Paul. They are messages of life, hope, instruction, and encouragement that transcends time and place, and as applicable to us today as they were to the church 2000 years ago. To understand Paul's message, you will need to understand the background of the letter and the problems facing the believers in Thessalonica. Let's begin.**

#### DAY ONE AND TWO

1. Remember to begin your time in prayer. You will begin by reading through I Thessalonians looking for and recording any information that helps you understand the background and trials which the people endured. Read all the questions first, then as you read I Thessalonians, answer the following questions. Make sure you include chapter and verse with your insights.
  - a. How did the gospel first come to the Thessalonians?
  - b. What circumstances surrounded their conversion? Ask the 5 W's and H. How did they receive it? What did they do after they received it? How did their countrymen treat them? You get the idea.
  - c. Where was Paul before he came to Thessalonica? What happened there? Answer this from your observations from I Thessalonians only.
  - d. What happened after they received the gospel?
  - e. There are several geographical locations mentioned through the letter. As you read, underline these places on the map provided on page 18.



## DAY THREE THROUGH FIVE

Today you are going to embark on a chapter study of I Thessalonians 1. Please note that you will only be looking at chapter one so don't go beyond that. I will give you step by step instructions on how to proceed. Remember that observation is the key component to an inductive study. Just work through the process one step at a time. I am giving you all the steps that you would follow for any chapter study, not just this particular chapter, so you may not find each one applicable to I Thessalonians 1. Just taking the time to look at and think through each step, will help you interact with the chapter and the Scripture will fill your heart and your mind.

1. Read through I Thessalonians 1. Don't do anything else at this time, just read.
2. Read through I Thessalonians 1 again, watching for key words that you marked from last week. Did you miss any markings? Did you notice other key words that you may have missed last week? Don't forget to make lists of what you learn from each of these words.
3. Read through chapter 1 again, this time marking the key words of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit if you haven't done that already. I mark God in a purple triangle, Jesus with a red cross, and the Holy Spirit with a purple dove. You can mark them anyway you wish. When you complete marking the Godhead in chapter 1, record what you learn about each Person of the Godhead on the pages of key words that you started last week.
4. Read through I Thessalonians 1 one more time. Are there any other words that are key in **just** this chapter? If so, mark them and then make a list of what you learn about them. You could do this in the columns of the side of your observation worksheets.
5. Look for and mark geographical locations. I use a green compass over the place. We did this in days one and two but you may not have marked them. Mark them now and find them on the map.
6. Are there certain people other than the author and recipient that are mentioned in the chapter? If so, mark that person in a unique way.
7. Look for and mark expressions of time. I use a blue clock. These could be mentions of feasts, day or evening, or words like when, then, after this, until, now, soon, etc.
8. Look for and mark instructions. I underline mine in orange. Look for specific "do this" commands. Then make a list of instructions on a separate paper.

9. Look for and mark warnings. I put my warnings in a black box. Make a list of the warnings you have marked. I put them on the opposite side of the paper as my instructions.
10. Are there any lists in the chapter? If so, you can number the items on the list. Here is an example that comes from Galatians 5. There are two lists, one that are the deeds of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit, so here is how you can mark them. You can make a list in the side columns of your worksheets.

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: <sup>1</sup>immorality, <sup>2</sup>impurity,  
<sup>3</sup>sensuality,  
 20 <sup>4</sup>idolatry, <sup>5</sup>sorcery, <sup>6</sup>enmities, <sup>7</sup>strife, <sup>8</sup>jealousy, <sup>9</sup>outbursts of anger, <sup>10</sup>disputes,  
<sup>11</sup>dissensions, <sup>12</sup>factions,  
 21 <sup>13</sup>envying, <sup>14</sup>drunkenness, <sup>15</sup>carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you,  
 just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit  
 the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is <sup>1</sup>love, <sup>2</sup>joy, <sup>3</sup>peace, <sup>4</sup>patience, <sup>5</sup>kindness, <sup>6</sup>goodness,  
<sup>7</sup>faithfulness,  
 23 <sup>8</sup>gentleness, <sup>9</sup>self-control; against such things there is no law.

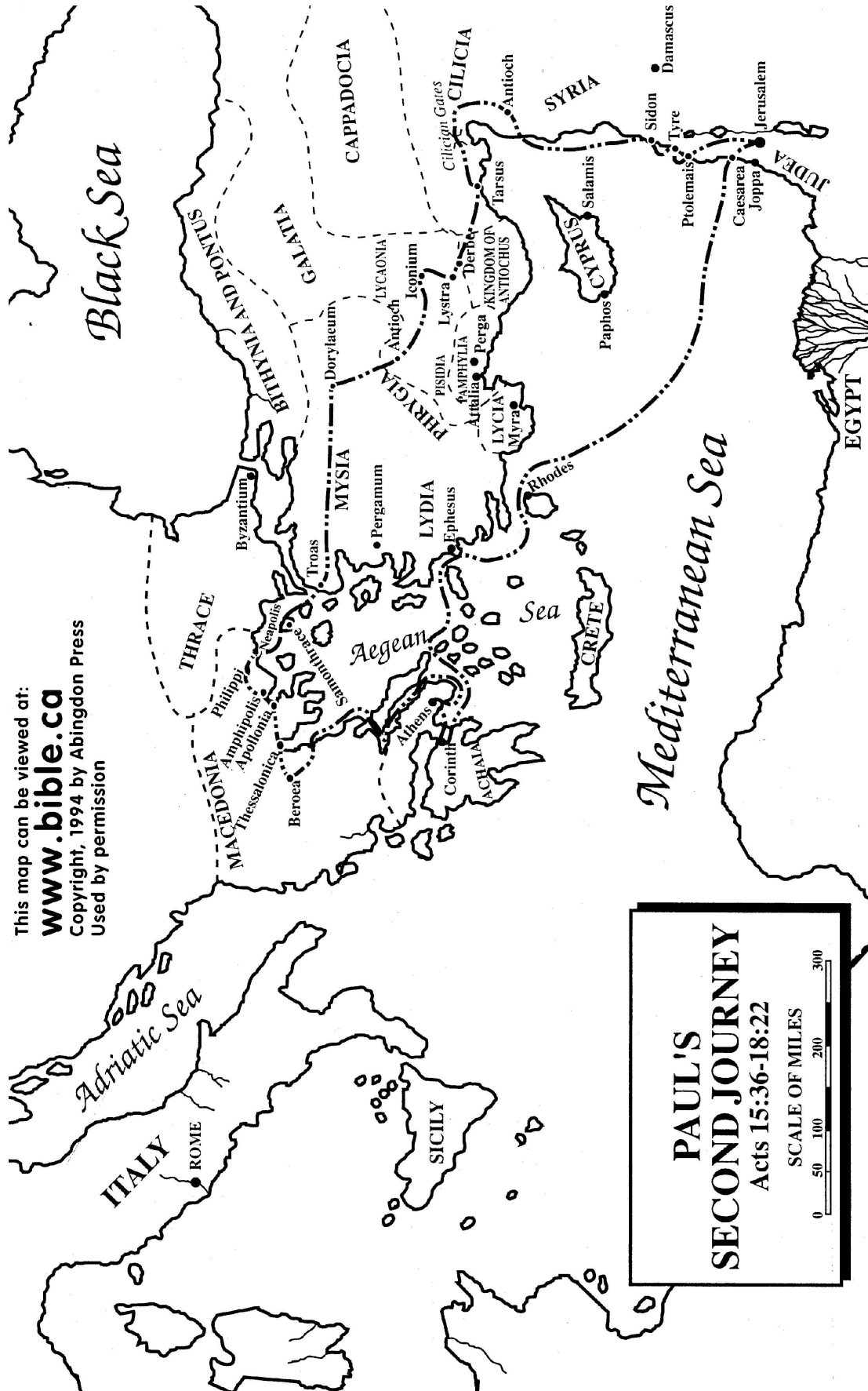
11. Look for and mark contrasts. These show the differences between two words or concepts - opposites. I mark mine with a yellow lightening bolt through the word, then I put that lightning bolt on the side of the observation worksheet next to the verse and put the two words that are being contrasted on either side. Look for words like - but, however, yet, nevertheless, on the other hand.
12. Look for and mark comparisons showing the similarities between two or more words or concepts. I mark mine with brown lines going in both directions over the word and then I draw a line to the two words that are being compared. Look for words like - like, as, such as, also, etc.
13. Look for and mark terms of conclusion. These are words like - wherefore, therefore, for, for this reason, finally, etc. The author has stated certain facts and then states that this is how you should respond, this is what you should do. I put the word in a red box and draw lines that tie the fact with the response.
14. In each chapter, there are several paragraphs. These paragraphs are distinguished by vertical lines separating two verses. Summarize the paragraph by giving it a paragraph title. Follow the same procedure as you did for chapter titles. In I Thessalonians 1, there is only one paragraph, so you will not need to do that for this chapter, but you will want to do that for the proceeding chapters.



15. After you have completed all of your work, check the chapter title that you chose for I Thessalonians 1. Are you happy with it or do you want to change it?

16. Do you have any questions about this chapter? If so, write them down below.

17. Don't look at any commentaries at this time. We are not done with our observations on chapter one.



What is true salvation? How do you know if you are truly saved? Many people have asked the question when someone is saved, are they always saved? The real question seems to be, is it possible to be saved and then fall away, back slide (not a Biblical term, by the way), and they will still go to heaven? Or can someone be saved, lose their salvation and then be saved again? It is truly amazing that these questions are asked when the Bible is so clear on the definition of true faith.

*Colossians 1:21-23 - And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach - IF INDEED YOU CONTINUE IN THE FAITH FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AND STEADFAST, AND NOT MOVED AWAY FROM THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL THAT YOU HAVE HEARD, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.*

At least sixteen times in Scripture we are told that faith is proven to be true faith when we remain faithful to the end! We have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. *Colossians 1:13-14 - For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.* This transfer is a completed action. We are no longer in darkness, we are now in the light. We died to the old and live in the new. There is no room for going back and forth or sitting on the fence. It is one or the other; it cannot be both! How will your life look and continue to look each and every day if you are truly saved - this transfer has taken place? Paul showed us the continual, habitual, lifestyle of someone who is redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Look at the prayer for the Colossians.

*Colossians 1:9b-14 - . . . that you may ① BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL IN ALL SPIRITUAL WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, so that you may ② WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE LORD, to ③ PLEASE HIM IN ALL RESPECTS, ④ BEARING FRUIT IN EVERY GOOD WORK and ⑤ INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD; ⑥ STRENGTHENED WITH ALL POWER, according to His glorious might, for the ⑦ ATTAINING OF ALL STEADFASTNESS AND PATIENCE; ⑧ JOYOUSLY GIVING THANKS TO THE FATHER, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.*

Is the desire of your heart to daily live out the eight principles listed above? From the time you received the word, have you turned to and served the living God, faithfully walked in a manner worthy, each day learning and growing in your relationship with your precious Savior? If you continue to fight the good fight, finish the course, keep the faith, and anxiously await Christ's appearing, then you can know that your faith is true, your future secure, a crown of righteousness is stored up for you, and your eternal destination will be in the Kingdom of God.

**Let's go back to the beginning of this introduction and the question of once a person is saved, is he always saved? I believe that is the wrong question to ask because we ask it with the wrong motivation. Instead, the question should be, was that person truly saved? If they were, Scripture tells us that they will be faithful to the end.**

**Approach this week's lesson with a prayerful spirit as you look at a true conversion experience. Study well not only for your own benefit, but to help others who doubt or question.**

## DAY ONE

You completed a chapter overview last week, which means this week you can begin to dig into the depths and riches of chapter one. You will be dissecting the passage by looking at the flow, observing the teaching, using word studies and cross references, and delving into interpretation and application. Let's begin.

1. Remember to begin your time in prayer. Ask God through the Holy Spirit to open your mind so that you may know Him and the hope of His calling. Read through I Thessalonians 1 and allow the truths to wash over you. Take your time and think through the passage asking the 5 W's and H questions. Don't write anything at this time, just soak it in.
2. You answered this question last week, but this week we want to study the process carefully. Reading through verse five alone, how did the gospel come to the recipients? You should see five distinct steps explaining how Paul, Timothy, and Silvanus brought the gospel. Record them below.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.



## DAY TWO

What you are about to look at over the next couple of days is essential doctrine for the Christian life. There is much to think about and process because it has the power to ground the believer, change lives, and bring confidence or answers to those who question their salvation.

1. In I Thessalonians 1:2-3, Paul commends the people for three deeds of service. What are they?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
2. Notice that he didn't commend them for faith, love, and hope. These are intangible since they are emotions or thought processes. If someone says they have faith, love, and hope how do you know they are speaking the truth? How do you know they have a real faith — a living faith? Read James 2:14-24 and look back at what exactly Paul said about their faith, love, and hope in verses two and three and then answer that question.

You know that someones faith is genuine — the conversion was real by observing a faith which works, a love that labors, and a hope that remains steadfast no matter what may come. Words are empty if they are not backed up by action.

3. Paul's commendation is rightly bestowed by the proof exhibited in the lives of the Thessalonians. Read through all of I Thessalonians and record examples of how this was lived out in their lives. Don't forget to include chapter and verse with your observations.

### DAY THREE

Today you are going to look at faith's work, love's labor, and hope's steadfastness. You will certainly not exhaust the Scriptures that speak to each of these points, but you will grow in your understanding of each attribute. If you have time and the desire to grow still more, you can use your study resources to look at each of these words in more depth.

Read through each of the Scriptures and record what you learn about. Be detailed and specific (include verse numbers for each point). Take the time to look up words that you may not understand in your Strong's Concordance, Word Study New Testament, or online. You may need to use more paper to write your observations.

1. **The Work of Faith** - Paul clearly teaches that man is justified (declared righteous before God) by faith alone apart from works; however, he also teaches that real faith produces good works.

- a. Titus 1:16-2:14

- b. Ephesians 2:8-10

- c. James 2:14-26 (these should sound familiar)



d. Hebrews 11

**2. The Labor of Love**

a. I John 4:7-5:3 (If you have time read through the whole book of I John to see what it says about love.)

b. I Corinthians 13:4-8a

**3. The Steadfastness of Hope**

a. Romans 8:18-25

b. I Corinthians 15:58

c. Hebrews 3:6-14; 6:9-12

#### DAY FOUR

1. Today you are going to look through I and II Thessalonians and look at the usage of faith, love, hope, and choice/chosen (election, KJV). You may have already marked faith, love and hope in I Thessalonians. You can mark it the same way in II Thessalonians (Observation Worksheets have been included with this lesson). Choose a new marking for choice/chosen (election) and mark that in both I and II Thessalonians.
2. Record what you learn about each of these words on the next page. Include book, chapter, and verse.

# I Thessalonians

Lesson 3, Chapter 1

Faith	Love
Hope	Choice/Chosen

## DAY FIVE

1. Read through I Thessalonians 1 and follow the gospel's progress. Where did it start and where did it end up going and how did it get there?
  
2. What did the Thessalonians become in verses 6-7?
  
3. Let's take a closer look at those two words.
  - a. Imitators (followers, KJV)
    - 1) #G3402 - mimeomai
    - 2) we get the English word "mimic" from this
  - b. Examples (ensamples, KJV)
    - 1) #G5179 - typos
    - 2) we get the English word "type" from this
    - 3) translated in other places as print, figure, pattern, fashion, form
    - 4) a figure formed by a blow or impression
    - 5) comes from #5180 - typto - a primary root
      - a) to strike, beat, smite, with repeated blows
      - b) struck with a die for casting
      - c) a stamp or scar
  
4. Have you mimicked another Christian's walk? Have you ever thought about someone mimicking you? Would you say to another person, "Follow my example." Why or why not?
  
5. Notice that they became imitators first and then became examples to other people. Fill out the chart on the next page to show what you are to imitate and how you should then be an example. In the second column make personal applications to your own life.

Imitators/Followers	Personal Application
<p>I Corinthians 4:16</p> <p>Ephesians 5:1-2</p> <p>Philippians 3:17</p>	

Examples/Ensamples	Personal Application
<p>I Corinthians 10:6, 11</p> <p>I Timothy 4:12</p> <p>Philippians 3:17</p> <p>I Peter 5:1-3</p>	



- c. What effect has your conversion had on others?
  
- d. Can others look at you and see your faith, love, and hope? If so, how?
  
- e. Did you turn to God? If so, what did you turn away from?
  
- f. Are you serving the living God? If so, how?
  
- g. Are you expectantly awaiting Christ's return?
  
- h. If you know the Lord is going return, how should that impact your life?
  
- i. What things in your walk are worthy of imitation?
  
- j. What things in your walk should not be imitated? Why?
  
- k. What should you do to change those things in your life?



**Exemplary means a desirable model; representing the best of its kind. Looking at our churches today, have you ever wondered why we don't see more exemplary Christians? Could it be that we lack exemplary witnesses and examples? Could it be that we are not delivering the Gospel in God's way as laid out in I Thessalonians 1? This week we begin our study into chapter 2. Paul lays out more detail as to how we are to speak and act as we bring the life-saving message of Jesus Christ to the dying world around us. Are we living an exemplary life and being an exemplary witness for Him so that we are bringing glory to God in all we say and do?**

#### DAY ONE

Last week was so intense and time-consuming that there was not time to see what the commentaries had to say about I Thessalonians 1. So today your assignment is an easy one. Read through I Thessalonians 1 one more time, and then take a little time to see what the commentaries say about this chapter. You can record your insights below.

## DAY TWO AND DAY THREE

1. Complete a thorough chapter study of I Thessalonians 2. If you don't remember all the steps, you can go back to lesson two, pages 15-17, and review the steps (only this time you will be following the directions for chapter 2).
2. It is best to do this over two days so that you are approaching the chapter with a fresh pair of eyes.

## DAY FOUR

You have spent the last two days observing I Thessalonians 2. The assignment you will be working on may be different from anything you may have done before, so I have included an example below that I will be referring to as I explain the assignment. Today, take the time to think through chapter 2 and create an outline of the chapter. The example that I have included is the beginning of an outline for the book of I Thessalonians on page 35. You may want to refer to that outline as I explain this process. Who knows, you may enjoy doing this and see the benefit derived from it that you may want to continue the process through the whole book.

I used the title I gave the book (after I made my observations during the overview the first week) as the title of the outline. Roman numeral I, II, III, IV, and V are the chapter titles from each chapter. Those chapter titles helped to explain how each chapter fits into and supports the author's purpose. I walk in a manner worthy of the Lord when I turn to God, when I impart the gospel and my life into others, when I live out my faith becoming an encouragement to others, when I am being sanctified daily in my walk, and when I am sober and alert.

The next level of the outline (the A, B, C) would normally be my paragraph titles that I derived from my chapter overview; however, in the case of chapter 1, there is only one paragraph but we did talk about three main ideas in last week's class, and I used those to break up chapter 1 into a more detailed outline. Each point supports my chapter title. Chapter one's title is "Turning To God." What does turning to God after hearing the Gospel do? It produces characteristics in our life; it continues to go forth; and it changes us (A, B, C). What does it produce in our lives? Thankfulness, prayerfulness, changed lifestyle (work of faith, labor of love, steadfastness of hope - sub-points a, b, c), and security (1, 2, 3, 4). As you look through the rest of chapter 1, you can see how you are taking the main points and sub-points and creating a detailed outline.

Now it is your turn to try to do the same thing with chapter 2. You can start with the chapter title and the next subgroup will be your paragraph titles. Under those you will list your points. You have a blank page to do your work. Give it a try. It is a wonderful way to lay the Scripture out before you and see how it all fits together!

## I Thessalonians - Walk in a Manner Worthy

- I. Turning To God
  - A. What the Gospel Produces (2-4)
    - 1. Thankfulness (2)
    - 2. Prayerfulness (2)
    - 3. Changed lifestyle (3)
      - a) Work of faith
      - b) Labor of love
      - c) Steadfastness of hope
    - 4. Security (4)
  - B. How the Gospel Goes Forth (5-8)
    - 1. Gospel Comes (5)
      - a) In word
      - b) In power
      - c) In the Holy Spirit
      - d) With full conviction
      - e) By example
    - 2. Gospel received in much tribulation (6)
    - 3. People Become Imitators (6)
      - a) Of us (the messengers)
      - b) Of the Lord
    - 4. People Become Examples to Others (7)
    - 5. Word Sounds Forth (8)
      - a) Macedonia
      - b) Achaia
      - c) Every place your faith has gone forth
  - C. The Process of Change (9-10)
    - 1. Turn to God (9)
    - 2. Turn Away from Idols (9)
    - 3. Serve a Living and True God (9)
    - 4. Await for His Son's Return (10)
      - a) From heaven
      - b) Jesus rescues us from wrath to come
- II. Imparting the Gospel & Our Lives
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.
- III. We Are Comforted Through Your Faith
- IV. God's Will Is Our Sanctification
- V. Be Alert and Sober

**Your Outline**

DAY FIVE

We are not going to get into the meat of I Thessalonians 2 until next week. So I am going to have you do a little reading today. There are two books and I chapter I would like you to read. I Thessalonians 2:8 states that not only did they impart the Gospel to them but also their own lives as well because they were very dear to them. Verse 11 says that they were exhorting, encouraging, and imploring each one as a father would his own children. What love Paul had for these people! Do we love like that? Is that our heart? It should be!

Here are a couple of passages of Scripture to read and think about. As you read them, I have given you room to record thoughts. As you search these Scriptures, look for the changed life style that would allow you to give of yourself to others, so they can see God's love lived out before their eyes through you. Ask God to reveal to you places where you fall short; ask His forgiveness, and seek His help to change you, transforming your mind and molding you into the image of His Son. Remember, He is the Potter and you are the clay in His hands — allow Him to do His work in you so that you may be a vessel of honor, bringing glory to His name.

Please read I John (all five chapters); I Corinthians 13; James (all five chapters).

**For those who have extra time to study or you read fast**

ONLY if you have time, you could also read Colossians (3 chapters) and Philippians (4 chapters).

# I Thessalonians

Lesson 4, Chapter 2

**Last week you read through I Thessalonians 2 quite a few times as you completed your chapter study. Did it almost seem as though Paul was defending his ministry? Could it be that there were some who, desiring to stir up problems, may have been accusing him of having wrong motives as he ministered among the people? As you read through Paul's defense in chapter two, watch for how and why he brought the Gospel. This should it give you pause to think - to examine your own life. Are you sharing the Gospel with others? And if you are, why and how are you doing it? Are you an exemplary witness that can be followed? What are our motives? If you are not, why aren't you? Do you fear man more than God? Were you not put here by God to share the Gospel and bring glory to Him?**

**Study well. Paul's words should convict, strengthen, and encourage you as you strive to walk in a manner that is pleasing to God.**

## DAY ONE

You will be reading I Thessalonians several times throughout the week. Don't skip that step. This is a vital chapter and speaks volumes to our character and work as a Christian. None of us could possibly read this enough times!

I don't know how many of you like challenges, but this is a challenge that I am taking up in my own life. I Thessalonians is so rich in instruction and encouragement that I think we would all do well to memorize it. Yes, I do mean the whole thing. It is possible! Someone asked how it was possible to eat an elephant. The answer was very simple. You eat it one bite at a time. That is how you memorize large portions of Scripture - one verse at a time. It is only 89 verses. If you learn five verses every week, in eighteen weeks this wonderful book will be committed to your mind and firmly implanted in your heart.

1. Read through I Thessalonians 2 and see if you can find the reason why Paul brought the Gospel to the people of Thessalonica. This would be the author's purpose for this letter. If you find the reason, record the verse in which you found it, and you may want to record this under purpose on your "At A Glance Chart" located in lesson one, page 10.

2. In I Thessalonians 1:5 Paul says that they didn't bring the Gospel by word only, but also in their lifestyle - their deeds. We are going to look at that in just a minute, but before you do, let's see if this idea is something that is demonstrated in other Scriptures. Read the verses below and record what you learn about the importance of words and deeds going hand in hand.

a. Luke 24:19

b. Acts 7:22

c. Romans 15:18

d. II Corinthians 10:11

e. Colossians 3:17 (read verses 1-17 to keep this in context)

f. James 2:14-26

g. I John 3:18 (read verses 14-22 to keep this in context)



3. Read through I Thessalonians 2 again. There are three paragraph divisions in this chapter. Last week, you should have given each of these paragraphs paragraph themes or titles. As you read through the chapter, look at those titles and watch the flow of chapter two. Notice that the beginning word(s) of each paragraph blend the paragraphs together. Verse 13 — for this reason - what reason? Verse 17 starts with “but” — but what? Record how one sections leads into the next.

4. Now let’s focus on those first twelve verses. Read them again. As you do notice how Paul states various things that they did and specific things that they didn’t do. Let’s take time to sort these out. Look up any words that you may not fully understand in your Bible tools: Strong’s Concordance, Word Study New Testament, online, expository dictionary, plain dictionary. (Use another piece of paper if necessary.)

What They Did	What They Didn't Do

DAY TWO

1. Yesterday, you focused on the first twelve verses (the first paragraph) of I Thessalonians 2. You were asked if you saw a connection between the three paragraphs. Before you move on, let's take a look at that. Read I Thessalonians 2 all the way through and watch the connection between verse twelve and thirteen and again between verse sixteen and seventeen. Answer the following questions.
  - a. For what reason did the author thank God?
  - b. How did the Thessalonians accept the Word?
  - c. When the Word of God is accepted, what does it do?
  - d. What happened to the Thessalonians after they accepted God's Word?
  - e. How are their fellow countrymen described in verses 15-16?
  - f. Explain Paul's relationship with the people at Thessalonica in verses 17-20.
2. In II Timothy Paul instructs Timothy how to preach the gospel. This is the same Timothy that was with Paul when he wrote this letter to the Thessalonians. Timothy was being groomed by Paul to take over the ministry of carrying the Gospel to whomever needed to hear it when Paul's life was over. There is much that we can learn from Paul's instructions to him.
  - a. Read II Timothy 3:15-4:4 and record what you learn.

b. Just to clarify, answer these questions using verses from II Timothy 4:1-4.

1) What are we to preach?

2) When is it supposed to be preached?

3) What do you think in season and out of season means?

4) We are supposed to use it for what?

5) How are we to preach it?

6) Why are we supposed to preach it?

7) Who is supposed to preach it? Timothy? Preachers? All of us?  
Defend your answer using this passage and others from the Bible.

3. Read each of these passages and meditate on them. What do they teach you about your relationship to proclaiming the gospel, the importance of this task, and who should be doing this work. Ask the 5 W's and an H question as you work through these verses.

a. Matthew 9:37-38

b. Matthew 10:24-39

c. Matthew 24:14

d. Mark 16:15

e. Romans 1:16-17

f. Romans 10:14-17

g. I Corinthians 1:17-18

h. I Peter 3:15

## DAY THREE

The Gospel is the good news of the ministry of Jesus Christ. It is God's message of salvation, the word of truth and the word of life. The Gospel is mentioned five times in I Thessalonians chapter 2. If we are called to proclaim the Gospel, what exactly are we to proclaim, and how are we to proclaim it? Let's find the answers to those questions.

1. Read I Corinthians 15:1-8. Paul tells us the message which he preached - the good news of salvation. What are the two main points of the Gospel according to these verses?
  - a.
  - b.
2. When Christ preached the message of salvation, what did He say. Read the following passages and record your answer.
  - a. Mark 1:14-15
  - b. Luke 24:44-49
3. When the apostles preached the Gospel, what were their messages? Watch for the common threads that run through each of these messages. What was mentioned? What wasn't mentioned? To whom were they speaking? What were the circumstances surrounding their message? What was the end result when they proclaimed the Gospel? (We need to remember that we are called to be faithful to speak, the results are God's, and they don't always make sense to us and that can shake our confidence!)
  - a. Acts 2:22-42

b. Acts 3:12-26

c. Acts 17:22-34

d. Acts 26:1-29

4. Summarize what you learned about sharing the Gospel.



- e. Who responded to the Gospel and why do you think they responded?
- f. What do you think should be preached to intellectual people? What about to those who seek after signs and miracles? Should the message change depending on the audience or is it still the same message?
4. Time for some prayer and soul searching. How do you feel when an opportunity comes to present the gospel to someone? What goes through your mind? How do you respond? What do you do if you are nervous or intimidated? How do you feel if people respond negatively? Positively? Look at you like you have ten eyes? Take all these thoughts and feelings before the Lord and ask Him to give you the boldness of Paul.



DAY FIVE

1. Read through I Thessalonians 2 one more time thoughtfully and prayerfully. Allow all that you have studied so far this week to wash over you as you read. Record any thoughts that may have come to your mind as you read. It may be something that you learned, something that spoke to your heart, or a question that you still may have.
2. You can now go to commentaries to see what they say about I Thessalonians 2. You can record your findings below.

*Let's pray for one another that we put into practice all that we have learned. It is so important that we be doers of the word and not hearers only! Our deeds need to back up our words and we need to become examples to others that they can follow us as we follow Christ. Let's go out in boldness and bring the Light to the darkness of this world!*

# I Thessalonians

Lesson 5, Chapter 2

**Are we so moved by concern for our fellow believers that we long to hear how they are doing, that they are standing strong? In I Thessalonians 2, Paul likens his relationship with these precious believers as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children (2:7) and as a father would care for his children (2:11). A parent loves, nurtures, and protects their children. As Paul moves into chapter three, he continues to show his love by sending Timothy to strengthen and encourage them and make sure that no one was disturbing their faith through the afflictions they were suffering.**

**Today, we seem to be able to justify our lack of concern by the busy-ness of the day. Does the phrase, “I don’t have time for that!” sound familiar? Jesus said the greatest commandment was to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind and love your neighbor as yourself. In Luke 10:25-37 a lawyer, trying to justify his indifference towards others, asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” How did Jesus answer him? He told him the story of the good samaritan. Those we see in need, those who are hurting, those who need a friend, those who need encouraging and strengthening — they are our neighbors. Love them!**

**Let’s follow Paul’s example as we continue our study in I Thessalonians.**

## DAY ONE

Begin your study in prayer and ask for wisdom and guidance in your study. Today, your task is to see Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy’s hearts toward the Thessalonians.

1. Read through the following questions and then read I Thessalonians 1-3 searching for the answers. Record what you learn.
  - a. According to I Thessalonians 2:17-20, what was their desire and what had happened that created that desire?

- b. How did they accomplish this desire according to chapter 3?
  
  - c. Explain their concern in chapter three and why they had that concern.
  
  - d. Is this something that we should also be concerned about with new believers today, and, if so, why?
- 
- 2. Do you have a responsibility to those you may have led to Christ? How about other new believers you know?
- 
- 3. Read through these three chapters once again. As you do, take note of how chapter three relates to the first two chapters. What is the therefore in 3:1 there for?

## DAY TWO

1. Complete a thorough chapter overview of I Thessalonians 3. The steps are listed back in lesson two pages 15-17 if you need to refer to them as a reminder.
2. In these chapters, God has been presenting an example for you and I to follow. Have you seen it? A couple of weeks ago we looked at the definition of exemplary. Exemplary means “to serve as a desirable model; representing the best of its kind.” That word is very applicable to what we have seen in these first three chapters.
  - chapter 1 - An Exemplary Conversion
  - chapter 2 - An Exemplary Witness
  - chapter 3 - An Exemplary Follow-Up

In chapter one you saw what happened when people truly turned to God and were born again. There was a change of life, a change that could be seen. They went from being imitators to being examples everywhere they went. Everyone who encountered them knew that they were serving the living and true God.

In chapter two you observed how Paul lived among the people. They brought the Gospel not just in word but in deed as well. They proved to be loving examples living among the people. They were examples worthy of being followed as Paul, Timothy, and Silvanus encouraged them to follow them as they followed Christ.

In chapter three you are now shown how to nurture those who are brought to faith through the Gospel. How do you help them? How do you pray for them? How do you encourage and strengthen them? The answers are here.

As Paul made his three missionary journeys, there were many who came to the Lord through faith and became true believers, but it didn't take long before they began to run into opposition. Paul's Epistles were follow-up letters to help strengthen new believers. They were written to help these new believers grow and be trained in the ways of God. They were instruction manuals that encouraged them in the Christian lifestyle and helped them to stand strong in the midst of persecution so they would not waver in their faith.

Today, almost 2,000 years later, God still speaks to us through Paul and the other apostles for the same reason. God's Word is a believer's strength to stand in the storms of life we encounter everyday. As we walk in a dark world, His Word acts as a lamp to our feet — it shows us how to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, to please Him in all we do (Ps 119:105; Eph 4:1; Col 1:10).

3. Let's take a look at Paul's relationship with the Corinthians.

a. Read I Corinthians 3:5-10. Who laid the foundation of their faith and how did that come to be?

b. By reading these verses, how does the Gospel come?

c. Now read I Corinthians 4:14-21. How does Paul deal with the Corinthians and why? Is he right in his words and actions? Why?

d. According to these two passages in I Corinthians, what can you learn about the responsibility to follow-up with new believers?







- b. Even though we may not understand this, prayer releases God to work, move, and accomplish things in the lives of others. Scripture says that God is looking for those who will stand in the gap (Ezekiel 22:30-31). Prayer puts us in touch with what God is doing, and we are called to pray diligently for His will to be accomplished. It is a tremendous privilege that our loving heavenly Father has given to His children to be a part of His work.
4. Let's begin a topical study on prayer. If you have never done this before, rest assured it is not as daunting as it may seem. There is a list of verses that have to do with prayer. It is not exhaustive by any means, but it will help you glean much information. Prayerfully read each Scripture (in its context - verses before and after it) and record what they teach you about prayer. Be detailed and specific. If need be, you may need to look up word meanings or even cross references to help you better understand the meaning of a particular passage.
5. When you are done, take all your information and compile it into an outline. During your study you may see various topics that come to the surface (when to pray, how to pray, what to pray, etc.), similarities between verses, commands, or other details that are important. This is information that will help you form your outline. When forming your outline, make sure to include Scripture references! Give this thought and prayer and do your best. God will bless the effort you put forth!
  - a. II Chronicles 7:14
  - b. Psalm 34:15
  - c. Psalm 66:16-20
  - d. Proverbs 15:8, 29
  - e. Proverbs 28:9-13

f. Isaiah 59:1-2

g. Jeremiah 33:3

h. Matthew 6:5-13

i. Matthew 7:7-8

j. Luke 11:11-13

k. Luke 18:1

l. John 9:31

m. John 14:13-14

n. John 15:7-16

o. John 16:23-26

p. Romans 8:26-27

q. Ephesians 6:18-20

r. Philippians 4:6

s. I Thessalonians 5:16-18

t. I Timothy 2:1-2

u. II Timothy 3:1-7

v. Hebrews 4:16

w. James 1:5-7

x. James 4:1-3

y. James 5:16

z. I John 5:14-15

YOUR OUTLINE ON PRAYER

# I Thessalonians

Lesson 6, Chapter 3

**Can you see the apathy in the world today? In the church? There are now “woke” churches that have completely abandoned God’s Word and replaced it with the new social gospel. Apostasy is running rampant even in the more traditional churches. There are but a few who are standing faithful and true to the Word of God, and praise the Lord for those who desire to excel still more in proclaiming the Gospel message.**

**What has happened to the Christian witness we once had in this country. Satan has been busy behind the scenes. He is tempting people away from God and many are following blindly. Paul was concerned about this for the church in Thessalonica almost 2,000 years ago. In I Thessalonians 3:5 Paul states, “. . . I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.”**

**Those words are just as applicable today. Satan has been tempting, luring people by his schemes and our society is eroding away at a tremendous pace. Are you one of those who can be tempted by Satan’s deceit?**

**One of the first rules of battle is to know your enemy. Let’s spend some time this week getting to know our enemy and his schemes, and most importantly, to know his end. Isaiah 14:16 tells us that some day the world will look at Satan and ask, “Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms?” He thinks he is powerful and mighty, but he is weak and helpless before the God of the universe, Maker of heaven and earth!**

#### **DAY ONE THROUGH DAY FOUR**

I would strongly suggest that you break up this work over the next four days. There is much to take in and be prayerfully thought through. We are told in I Peter 5:8 that Satan is a believer’s adversary, and he is seeking those whom he may devour. We are first introduced to him in Genesis as the tempter. In I Thessalonians 3:5, Paul refers to him as “the tempter.” Paul also stated that Satan thwarted their plans in I Thessalonians 2:18. He is a powerful foe, but we are assured that “. . . greater is He who is you than he who is in the world.” (I John 4:4)

Paul warned the Thessalonians about Satan’s attacks. He equipped them so that they could be more than conquerors! We too need to equip ourselves. Prayerfully and thoughtfully work through this lesson — carefully putting on God’s armor and picking up your sword. You are heading into battle every day, but take heart, if you are God’s child, you are on the winning team!

## **Satan's Temptations**

1. Let's begin in the beginning. Read Genesis 3:1-6.
  - a. Describe Satan's tactics when he talked to Eve.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Read I John 2:15-17. How does this relate to Satan's discussion with Eve?
  
2. Read Matthew 4:1-11 and answer the following questions.
  - a. In verse 3, Satan is called "the tempter." What else is he called?
  - b. Look at Revelation 12:9 and record the names we see for Satan in this verse.
  - c. According to Matthew 4, who permitted the temptation of Jesus?
  - d. The first of three temptations is found in verses 2-4.
    - 1) What was Satan asking Jesus to prove?
  
  
  
    - 2) How was this to be proven?
  
  
  
    - 3) How did Jesus respond?
  - e. The second temptation is found in 5-7.
    - 1) Again, what was Satan asking Jesus to prove?
  
  
  
    - 2) How was it to be proved?
  
  
  
    - 3) How did Jesus reply?



- f. The last temptation is found in 8-10.
- 1) What was Satan offering?
  - 2) What did he want Jesus to do?
  - 3) How did Jesus respond?
- g. Look at James 4:7 and the first part of verse 8. How does this relate to the Matthew 4 temptation?
3. Read I Corinthians 7:3-5. Focusing on verse 5, what does this passage teach about your weakness and what gives you strength to overcome Satan's tricks.
4. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. In these verses, "the prince of the power of the air" is referring to Satan.
- a. Record what a believer used to be.
  - b. Read Ephesians 2:4-7. What happened to change a believer, and how does that help believers to stand firm against Satan's onslaught?

### **Satan's Beginning and End**

1. In Ezekiel 28, you read about the King of Tyre. In the first ten verses, the leader is called a man (verse 9). This changes in verses 11-19. He is now called an anointed cherub in verse 14. These verses are referring to Satan. Read Ezekiel 28:11-19 and answer the following questions.
  - a. How did Satan come into existence?
  - b. How is he described?
  - c. What happened to him and how did it occur?
  - d. What did God do to Satan?
  
2. In Isaiah 14, you read about the King of Babylon. When you come to verse 12, you realize that you are no longer reading about an earthly king, but Satan. Read Isaiah 14:12-17 and answer these questions.
  - a. How is Satan described?
  - b. What happened to him?
  - c. What did he say in his heart?
  - d. What is the reality of what will happen to him?

**Satan's Character**

Read the following passages and record all that you learn about Satan.

1. John 8:44
2. II Corinthians 11:3
3. Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10
4. I Peter 5:8

**Satan's Tactics**

Scripture calls Satan a schemer. Read these verses and find out what his schemes are and how you can stand against them.

1. Daniel 10:12-13
2. Matthew 13:24-39
3. Mark 4:15
4. John 13:2

5. Acts 5:3
  
6. I Corinthians 7:5
  
7. II Corinthians 2:11
  
8. II Corinthians 4:4
  
  
9. II Corinthians 11:13-15
  
  
  
10. II Corinthians 12:7; Job 2:7
  
  
  
11. Ephesians 4:26-27
  
  
  
12. Ephesians 6:11

### **A Believer's Power Over Satan**

Because of Jesus' death on the cross, He broke the power that sin has over us. You, as a true believer in Jesus Christ, are no longer a slave to sin, but a slave to righteousness. You have been seated in the heavenly places with Christ. Your position in Christ gives you victory over Satan. Read the following portions of Scripture and record what you learn about a believers position and relationship to Satan.

1. Luke 10:17-20

2. Acts 26:18

3. Ephesians 1:17-23

4. Ephesians 6:10-18

5. James 4:7

6. I Peter 5:6-9

7. I John 4:4

8. I John 5:4-5

9. Revelation 12:11

### **A Believer's Access To God's Throne**

If Satan is your enemy, and he is determined to defeat you and keep you from being an effective witness for God's kingdom, then how are you supposed to withstand him? How are you going to be victorious in the battles that rage around you every day? If you have to ask that question, then you don't understand what you have through Christ and what it means to be a child of the King!

Do you know your Heavenly Father? Do you understand that He has created all that we can see and know? Do you know that you are His beloved child? Do you know that Jesus Christ died for you so you could walk in oneness with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Do you know that He has provided you with all the spiritual armor needed to combat the enemy?

You need to know God's Word. Study it. Meditate on it. Believe it and act on that faith, and remember that true faith is faithful to the very end. Through prayer and praise, rehearse that which you know is true about God. Allow the Spirit to lead you, move you, and work through you. Go out into the world with boldness, in God's strength, to take the Gospel message to the dying world that surrounds you.

Here are some great promises to read, study, memorize, and appropriate as you head into the battle.

- **God's surpassing greatness and power has been given to you so that you might be strengthened with His might - this same God who raised Jesus from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places where He is far above (superior in strength) all rule, power, authority, and dominion. (Ephesians 1:19-21)**
- **God has reached down to His children and raised them up and seated them with Him (and with Jesus) in the heavenly places so that He might show us the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us. (Ephesians 2:6-7)**
- **Because we belong to Him, through Christ's shed blood on the cross, we can now draw near to His throne of grace in confidence and boldness, so we may receive mercy and grace in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)**
- **No matter what Satan might throw at us, we are Christ's church, we stand on the Rock, and the gates of Hades will not overpower us. (Matthew 16:18)**

But wait a minute. The Bible tells us that Peter was sifted, Job lost everything, and Paul was kept from going to the Thessalonians. Didn't they have the ability to stand? Didn't Satan have victory over these men of God? We may not have direct answers to these questions, but what we do know was that Satan was allowed to act on these men only with God's permission. Satan can only operate within the limits God places on him, and there is always a purpose for the process. These encounters can bring growth, refinement, adjustment, or an opportunity of witness to others that we indeed are different because God abides in us.

1. Read these verses and note how God limits the power of Satan.

a. Job 1:10-12

b. Job 2:6

c. Luke 23:31-32

d. II Corinthians 12:7-9

e. Revelation 2:10 (You may have to think about this one to see how it relates.)

f. Romans 8:28

g. Acts 16:6-7 (Note: Do all hinderances come from Satan?)





DAY FIVE

1. Take time to go back through all that you learned in the first four days of study and compile a list of what you learned and applications that you can make in your life to defend against the temptations of this world — Satan's domain.

2. If you have time remaining, see what your commentaries have to say about I Thessalonians 3.

# I Thessalonians

Lesson 7, Chapter 3

**Immorality is running rampant in our world today. Can you see it? What God has declared as abominations, man is calling good and right. Sin that used to be hidden in brought out into the open and even flaunted. The world is making flags and carrying them as banners of pride to celebrate sexual perversion. Churches have embraced this idea and they no longer call immoral lifestyles sin for that would be offensive. Adultery and fornication (any sexual act outside of the parameters of God's standard) is everywhere, including in the church. These things should not be! There are those who are standing on the Word of God and proclaiming sin as sin with a message that judgment will fall on those who practice such things. For those who cling to God's truths and call such actions sin, they have been labeled outlaws, criminals, and enemies of world peace and acceptance. Speaking out against immorality is landing people in jail. What is going on in our world?**

**This is nothing new. Paul tells the people of Thessalonica that they are to stay away from the sexual immorality that was accepted in their culture. God's will was their sanctification, that they should be set apart from the filth of the world. The call is the same for the church today. God's will is that we abstain from sexual immorality, and if we reject that, we are rejecting God. We also can't accept this lifestyle, but need to warn people that judgment will come upon those who practice sin such as this.**

**Today truth is definitely "out of season" but we have been called to speak truth. Let's see what I Thessalonians 4 can teach us, so we can boldly live out the truth.**

#### DAY ONE

Prayerfully complete a thorough chapter study of I Thessalonians 4. If you need guidance, the steps to completing a chapter study can be found in lesson 2 on pages 15-17.

#### DAY TWO

1. I Thessalonians 4:1-8 deals with the problem of lustful passion sweeping the world. Read this passage and answer the following questions.

- a. What do you learn about a Christian's sexual behavior from this passage?

- b. Is this Paul's personal view on sex or is it God's? Explain your answer.
- c. What happens if we disobey God's will in the matter?
2. How do you think I Thessalonians 4:6 fits into the passage of sexual immorality? Take some time to think this through. When you have come to your own conclusions as to how this relates to the passage, you could then check the commentaries on this verse and see what they have to say. Do you agree or disagree with their conclusions and why?
3. Read I Thessalonians 5:23. How does this verse support the thought process of I Thessalonians 4:1-8?
4. Read the following verses and record what they say about sexual purity.
- a. Exodus 20:14
  - b. Hebrews 13:4

5. Using whatever study tools you have, let's take a bit of time to define some terms. Record what you learn about each one, noting how they differ from each other.

a. Adultery

b. Fornication

c. Harlotry

d. Prostitution

e. Incest

f. Homosexuality

g. Sodomy

h. Bestiality

6. In Matthew 5:27-32, Jesus addresses the heart of the problem of adultery. The word “look” in verse 28 is in the present tense which means that it is a continuous, habitual action. According to this passage, where does adultery begin? Does the act of sexual intercourse have to occur for someone to be guilty of adultery? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Look at your definition of incest. Is that considered immoral by God? Read the following verses and record what you learn about God’s perspective of incest.
  - a. Leviticus 18:6-17
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Leviticus 20:11-12, 17, 19-21
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. I Corinthians 5:1-5, 9-13
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. What conclusions can you draw from these Scriptures?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Now let’s see what God’s Word says about homosexuality. There are those even within the church today that say this is an acceptable lifestyle in God’s eyes.
  - a. Leviticus 18:22; 20:13

b. Genesis 19:4-11; 18:20

c. I Corinthians 6:9-11

d. Romans 1:26-27

e. How does God feel about homosexuality?

9. What about bestiality? Would that also be considered immoral? Look at the following verses.

a. Leviticus 18:23

b. Leviticus 20:15-16

c. Conclusion:

10. Each person will one day stand and be judged according to God's Word. For believers, we will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and give an account of our works and what we did to bring glory and honor to our King. For the unbelievers, they will stand before the Great White Throne to be judged for their rejection of God's Son and His Word. The standard used as a measuring rod will be the Word of God. What will happen to those who lived a lifestyle of immorality? Read Revelation 21:8 and record your answer.

### DAY THREE

As we see in our society today, sexual immorality and promiscuity seems to be the norm. This was also the case in the society where the early church began. It was rampant not only in the society, but it was a big part of pagan worship. These sexual acts were thought to bring the blessings of their fertility gods. Now here comes Paul telling them that according to the one true God, the sexual act was to be between a husband and wife alone and all else was sin. Do you see how the teaching of God's Word was turning their lives upside down?

Let's watch and learn as Paul handles this confrontation between what the world deems as acceptable and what God says is right.

1. Read I Corinthians 6:12-7:3 carefully and prayerfully. Paul is going to make a masterful case, anticipating the objections and justifications of sexual liberty. When you are done reading the passage, answer the following questions.

a. According to verses 12, what was Paul anticipating the Corinthians would use as a defense for sexual freedom?

b. How did Paul answer this objection in the next several verses?



- c. What happens when someone joins themselves to a harlot or prostitute according to verses 15-16? Compare these verses with I Corinthians 6:16 and Genesis 2:24.
- d. Read through I Corinthians 6:12-20 and look for the two commands that God gives in verses 18-20. List them below.
- e. What does immorality do to the man and to the Lord according to I Corinthians 6:18-20? Think through this carefully because the application of these statements are far reaching!
- f. Now we move over to I Corinthians 7:1-3. What is Paul's practical solution for the problem of immorality? How will this help?
- g. To sum this up, read I Corinthians 6:12-7:3 one more time and answer these questions. Are our bodies our own? Do we have the right to satisfy them in any way we desire? Why or why not?

2. Let's look at some other passages. Read Proverbs 2:10-19 and answer the following questions.
  - a. What guards a man from getting caught in the trap of a strange woman (an adulteress)?
  - b. What does the strange woman forget?
  - c. What is the end result of getting involved with such a woman?
  
3. Now read Proverbs 5:15-23.
  - a. Who is being addressed in this passage?
  - b. What is God saying in verses 15-18?
  - c. Where should the man satisfy his sexual needs?
  - d. How does Proverbs 5:18-19 compare with I Corinthians 7:1-5?
  - e. Going back to I Corinthians 7:1-5, what obligation do spouses have to each other? If a believer refuses to meet the sexual desires of their mate, what are they doing? Are they accountable to God for that decision and how may their life be affected by their actions?

- f. Proverbs 5:20-23 addresses the issue of seeking sexual satisfaction outside of the marriage bed. Will God know it? What will God do? What will happen to the one who seeks satisfaction outside of the marriage relationship?
4. There is one more passage to look at today. Read Proverbs 6:20-7:27 and fill out the chart that is on the next page. As you read through the verses remember God's command for sexual purity, being sanctified — set apart from the dirt and filth of this world. God is not trying to spoil our fun, He is protecting His children from the harm and destruction brought on by the evil pull of the lusting flesh. Jeremiah 29:11 says, *"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."*

Oh, that we can see, understand, and remember that God has our welfare at heart because He loves us! Satan desires our destruction, but yet he is so good at deceiving us into believing that God is holding out on us. If we just feed those desires of the flesh, then we could truly be happy. Don't listen, my friend. Satan is a liar and has been from the beginning.

**Strange Women and Men Lacking Sense**

<p><b>Characteristics of a Strange Woman</b></p>		<p><b>Characteristics of a Man Lacking Sense</b></p>		<p><b>Tactics of a Strange Woman</b></p>		<p><b>God's Instructions to the Man</b></p>	
						<p><b>The Dumb Man's Destiny</b></p>	

## DAY FOUR AND DAY FIVE

Today you are going to look at three different accounts of people who were tempted in the area of sexual immorality. Carefully read through each of these accounts. Record what you learn and then look for practical applications for your own life. God recorded these events for your benefit that you might learn from them. In some accounts those involved had victory — learn how you can have victory as well. In other instances they fell to temptation — learn how to avoid their sin. What could they have done differently? Where did they go wrong? At the end of each example, as part of the practical application, write out a prayer that starts with God says that I . . . and ends with therefore, I will stand before God today and declare that I will . . .

There are several blank pages that follow that can serve as a place to record you notes, applications, and prayers. Use your own paper if necessary to complete this assignment. Study well. We need to hear God's Word on this issue!

1. Genesis 39 - Joseph and Potiphar's wife
2. II Samuel 11-12 - David and Bathsheba
3. II Samuel 13 - Amnon and Tamar

See what your commentaries have to say about I Thessalonians 4:1-8. Please don't go beyond that. You will finish the chapter next week in your study and you don't want to take away your opportunity to learn for yourself by sitting at the feet of God Himself.

# I Thessalonians

Lesson 8, Chapter 4

# I Thessalonians

Lesson 8, Chapter 4

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Lesson 8, Chapter 4



**In the last lesson, you looked at the immorality of the world and within the church. This week you are going to look at the right kind of love, agape love. Love that we are to show to others. The love that can only come from God. Is this kind of love a feeling or an action - an act of the will? Is it something that can come and go? Is it natural or is it learned? Can it excel? Does it fail?**

**These are the questions that you are going to answer this week.**

**Remember to start every lesson in prayer, and approach this study with a heart that desires to be molded into the likeness of God's heart. Pray that His desires become your desires.**

## DAY ONE

In I Thessalonians 4:9, Paul states that they were taught by God to love one another. Isn't that an interesting statement? How did God teach them to love? What were they taught? If they could be taught, does that mean that you can be taught as well?

Back in chapter one, Paul commended the people for their labor of love. Now in 4:10 he says that they were practicing love toward the brethren who were in Macedonia. How were they doing that? He went on to urge them to excel still more. Keep on loving - labor even harder that you have been.

There was a song we used to sing when I was growing up. It said, "We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that our unity will one day be restored, and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love." When people look at Christians today, when they look at you and I, will they know we are Christians by our love?

We need to have answers to these questions. We need to hold our lives up to God's standard and see if we measure up. The church today, the body of Christ, is sadly lacking in this aspect of our lives. Why? I think the answer is back in chapter one. It is a labor of love. It is hard work. It is time consuming. It means not having "me" time because I am focused on the needs of others. It means dying to self. If we are truly honest with ourselves, we will admit that we don't want to labor; we do enough hard work; we don't have time; we just need some time to ourselves to kick back and relax. What would Paul think about that attitude? More importantly, what does God think?

**Excel still more! Labor harder! Love the brethren!**

1. Thoughtfully read through I John 3:10-5:3 and Romans 5:5-11. As you read think through all the questions that were asked in the introduction of this lesson. Read through these passages and record what they teach about love and how you can practically apply these teachings to your life.

2. Read through I Corinthians 13. This little chapter is tucked into Paul's teaching about spiritual gifts. No matter what spiritual gifts you may have if you are not exercising those gifts in an atmosphere of proper, active love toward the brethren, they are useless. As you go through the description of active, agape love, record and personalize each one of these and describe how you should be living that out in your life. For example, "I should show my love by being patient with . . . by . . . (practical suggestions/applications).

3. Read Matthew 5:17-20 and Romans 13:8-10. Both of these passages have to do with a believer's relationship with the Law and how that pertains to loving one another. Write a thorough explanation of what is being taught, particularly in the Romans passage, and how you can apply these principles to your life. Take time to look at what you have learned from the passages you have studied so far.

DAY TWO

1. Take time to prayerfully review what you learned from Day 1. If need be, go back and reread the passages if you are unclear on any of them.
2. Read through the book of I Thessalonians. As you read through, record the practical ways that the Thessalonians loved the brethren. Make sure to include chapter and verse with each point.
3. Now it is time for prayerful application of all that you have learned concerning love. Can someone look at your life and see your labor of love? How would they see that being lived out in your life everyday? Is there something keeping you from loving the brethren (or certain brethren) as you are called to do? How can you start loving the brethren? How can you excel still more? Take these before the Lord in prayer and ask Him for the wisdom and courage to live these principles out in your life.

### DAY THREE

Paul moves directly from loving one another as we ought to a teaching on the importance of work in a believer's life. It makes sense when you think about it. Paul commended them on their works of faith, their labor of love, and steadfastness of hope. This is our daily life and part of that daily life is attending to our business and working with our hands.

Is our attitude toward work, and how we approach work important to God? Is it necessary to live this part of our life out in obedience to His Word? I certainly hope you answered that question with a resounding, "Yes!" If God's Word talks about it, we better understand what He says and how we are to live that out!

1. Start by reading I Thessalonians 4:9-12. How do the ideas of loving and working tie together? Is one related to the other?
  
2. After you have wrestled with the question on your own, you can check your commentaries and see if they add any additional insight to verses 9-12. Please don't go any further than that.
  
3. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about work and a Christian's life. Create an outline when you are done studying the passages.
  - a. Genesis 3:17-19
  
  - b. Exodus 20:9

c. Ecclesiastes 5:12

d. Acts 20:33-35

e. Ephesians 4:28

f. I Thessalonians 4:11-12

g. II Thessalonians 3:7-15

MY OUTLINE ON WORK





DAY FOUR AND DAY FIVE

1. If you haven't looked at your commentaries yet, you can take the time to do that; HOWEVER, don't go beyond I Thessalonians 4:1-12. We have yet to dig into those wonderful verses at the end of chapter 4.
2. Complete a thorough observation - chapter study - on I Thessalonians 5. Don't skim over this. You are coming to the end of the book, make sure you finish strong!
3. If you have anytime left, take the time to review this lesson, and pray about how you are going to begin applying what you have learned to your life.



**What is going to happen when Jesus returns? What happens to those who are alive? To those who are dead? When is this going to happen? Paul was only with the Thessalonians for three weeks, yet he felt it was important to teach eschatology - the end of the age. Then in the follow-up letters, First and Second Thessalonians, he spends much time on these topics again. What is so important? Should eschatology be just as important to us today, and if so why? Let's see what we can learn.**

## DAY ONE

1. Read through I Thessalonians and watch for mentions in each chapter of the coming of Jesus Christ either at the rapture when He comes for His bride or the second coming when He comes to this earth to bring judgment on Satan and his kingdom. Look for and record chapter and verse of each reference and the context in which they are set. Don't take any notes at this time, just record chapter and verse as you read through each chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Read through these references again and answer the following questions.
  - a. I Thessalonians 1:10
    - 1) When people turn to and serve the living and true God, where will their focus be? What will they be waiting for?
  
  
  
  
  
    - 2) Why will they be waiting for Him? What will He do for them?
  
  
  
  
  
    - 3) Do you believe this refers to the rapture or His second coming? Why?

b. I Thessalonians 2:19

- 1) Why were the Thessalonians going to be their hope, joy, or crown?
- 2) How long would the believers need to remain faithful?
- 3) Do you believe this refers to the rapture or His second coming? Why?

c. I Thessalonians 3:13

- 1) What does it mean to have your heart established? Read the following verses to help answer that question. Acts 14:21-22; 16:5; Romans 1:11-12; I Peter 5:10; and II Peter 1:12.
- 2) Can anyone truly be without blame in holiness? Blameless doesn't mean sinless. Blameless means to be free from all valid charges which means that we deal with the sins in our life so that we can continue to stand in holiness with God. Read II Corinthians 7:1 and see how this applies.
- 3) Do you believe this refers to the rapture or His second coming? Why?

d. I Thessalonians 4:13-18 - We are going to skim this passage for now, but there are a couple of points you need to see.

- 1) Focus on verse 13 and verse 18. How is it possible that we will not grieve?
- 2) Do you think that this passage refers to the rapture or His second coming? Why?

e. I Thessalonians 5:2-11; 23

1) To whom will the day of the Lord come like a thief in the night?

2) Since we are of the day, what are we supposed to do according to verses 8-9, 11?

3) What is our promise according to verse 10?

4) What has God done so that we may be preserved complete and without blame? Look at verse 23 to answer that question.

5) Do you think that this passage refers to the rapture or His second coming? Why?

3. Go back and read I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and answer the following questions.

a. Why do you think Paul deals with this subject at this point in his letter? If you need to, skim chapter 4 to see what he was talking about up to this point.

b. Paul is dealing with a concern that these people have due to either a misunderstanding or lack of knowledge in this area. What is causing them to grieve?

4. We used the word “eschatology” in the introduction to this lesson. It is the study of end time events. What you need to do before continuing on in this lesson is to put all that you have been taught, thought, or believed to the side. As we approach our study, we want to allow the Word of God to speak to us and we don’t want the words of man to interfere with God’s message. Ask God to give you a clear, teachable mind as you continue. In I Thessalonians 4:13-18, there is a specific chain of events that are laid out before the people. Read the passage and record those events in order. Don’t add anything to what is clearly stated in the passage.

5. Now it is time to use your study tools to look up a couple of words. So using a Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, a Vine’s Expository Dictionary, a Complete Word Study New Testament, or [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) or other helps on the computer, look up these words and record what you learn.

a) coming of (4:15)

b) caught up (4:17)

DAY TWO

What does it mean to “sleep” or be “asleep” in the Lord. This term is used three times in I Thessalonians 4:13-15. Those who are “asleep” are those who in verse 16 are called the “dead in Christ.”

1. Look up the following verses and note those who are asleep. Who are they and how does it describe them? Make sure to read these verses in context.

- a. Acts 7:60

- b. I Corinthians 11:30

- c. I Corinthians 15:16, 18

2. What happens when a Christian dies? Is this something to be feared? What part of the Christian sleeps? Where does the Christian sleep? How long does he sleep? These are all important questions. Read the following verses and record the answers to the questions that were posed.

- a. II Corinthians 5:1-8

- b. Philippians 1:21-24

3. In your own words, describe what will happen to a Christian when they die. Be thorough in your explanation. Is this something to be feared? Why or why not?

### DAY THREE

Today you are going to do a chapter study on what has been called the Resurrection Chapter. It is very important to carefully observe this text and learn the vital truths of this portion of God's Word.

There are Observation Worksheets on portions of I Corinthians 15 on the next couple of pages. Prayerfully read through I Corinthians 15:12-28, 35-58 and follow all the steps of a complete chapter study. Don't miss the truths that are found in I Corinthians 15:51-54.

As you work through I Corinthians 15, keep in mind all that you have learned in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 as well as what you have learned about a Christian and death.

Record any new insights about the death of a Christian from your study on I Corinthians 15.



### **I Corinthians 15:12-28, 35-58**

12 Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised;

14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

15 Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.

16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised;

17 and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.

18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.

25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

27 For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.

28 When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?"

36 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;

37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish.

40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another.

41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body;

43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.

49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

## DAY FOUR

Carefully and thoughtfully read through I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and I Corinthians 15:51-54 several times. Take time to meditate on these verses and then answer the following questions.

1. There are two groups of people talked about in I Thessalonians 4:13-18. Who are they?
  
2. Who are the ones that are going to be “caught up”?
  
3. How will these people, alive or asleep be “caught up”? Read I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and record step by step what will happen.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How and when will those who are alive and remain be “caught up”? Make sure to check both passages to answer this question.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Let’s take a moment to trace the steps of the Lord through I Thessalonians 4:13-18.
  - a. Where does Christ begin?
  - b. To where does He descend?
  - c. Where do the Christians meet Him?
  - d. What happens to the Christians after they meet Him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. In I Corinthians 15:51 says that “we shall all be changed.” Who is the “all”?

7. What will happen when they are changed and how long will this change take?

#### DAY FIVE

1. Our last passage for this week will be I Thessalonians 5:1-11. Read these verses carefully to see if you can discern what Paul had taught the people of Thessolonica while he was with them for three short weeks. Record your insights.
2. How does Paul describe the Christians in this passage?
3. What are the instructions given to the believers?
4. How does verse 10 relate to those who are asleep in Christ?
5. In verse 6, Paul uses the word “sleep.” Is he referring to those who are dead or something else? Explain your answer.

6. You can now go to your commentaries and read what they have to say about I Thessalonians chapter 4 and chapter 5:1-11.

7. What have you learned from your study this week that you can apply to your life?

*We only have one more week in our study of I Thessalonians. What a wonderful study it has been! We will move right into Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians and the blessings of study will continue.*

**Jesus is coming back. First for His church and then to put an end to Satan's lies and deceptions. So what are we to do in the meantime? Do we sit back and wait for Jesus to come for His bride? Should we stop our work and ministry and just wait?**

**We have learned over our time together that we are already seated in the heavenlies with Jesus (Ephesians 2:6). We already have victory over the ruler of this world and his schemes. But even though we are seated in the heavenlies, our feet are still on this earth. This is still our temporary home, and we are surrounded by people who have no hope, people who have fallen prey to Satan's lies. As long as we walk around on this earth, we have a job to do, so let's get busy and be God's hands, feet, and mouth piece.**

**Paul spent the end of chapter four and the beginning of chapter five giving us great encouragement in what is going to come for the believer. We are to encourage each other as we expectantly wait for the return of the Son for His bride. But while we are waiting, we have a job to do. We need to invite everyone we can to come to the wedding feast. Paul gives the practical day to day activities that we are to live out in these days while we wait.**

**Study well as we finish up the book of I Thessalonians. Be busy with admonishing the unruly, encouraging the fainthearted, and helping the weak. Are you living as you ought to live in these last days? Put on your armor, you are in a fight and the battle will become more intense everyday. There is no room for fainthearted people in battle which is why we are to be encouraging them and helping them to prepare for the days to come.**

## DAY ONE

Be sure to begin each day in prayer. As you look at this lesson, ask God to show you areas in your life that you need to strengthen. If you are living as you ought to live, ask God to show you how to excel still more.

1. Let's start off this week by reading I Thessalonians 5:12-28. It shouldn't be difficult to see that Paul is laying out instructions for our daily walk. You need to look at and understand each of these instructions and how they apply to you.
2. Focusing on verses 12-13, Paul gives three instructions. List what they are.

3. In verse 12, Paul gives you a description of the people whom you are to appreciate. How are they described in this verse? Again, he lists three attributes of these people. Make sure to list all three.
  
4. Here we are, living in a world that is almost 2,000 years removed from the writing of I Thessalonians. We tend to be very shortsighted and filter all that we read and study by our own experiences. Let's step back in time for a bit and question why Paul may have tied these three instructions (appreciate those, esteem them, and live in peace) with the description that he gave of those they were to appreciate (diligently labor among you, have charge over you, and give you instruction). If you remember the history of this book, Paul came and brought the gospel to those in Thessalonica. They received the Word, became imitators, and then became examples of living out the Word. The church was started and they were all novices (new believers). There were no pastors that went to seminary and have had years of practice at pastoring a church. Paul, Timothy, and Silvanus, through the wisdom of God, must have appointed certain people to run this new church. With that in mind, can you understand why these instructions may have been given? For those of you who have been studying the book of Exodus with us, you may have more information to draw on from the study of Aaron and his sons being chosen to be priests unto God. If you need help answering this questions you may want to read Numbers 16-17.



5. The command in verse 13 is to “live in peace with one another” (be at peace among yourselves - KJV). The word “live” or “be” is in the present tense, imperative mood. Present tense means that it is to be a lifestyle, an habitual action, and the imperative mood makes it a command, not a suggestion. They are to live a lifestyle of peace with one another. There is another word that needs to be looked up and that is the word “appreciate” in verse 12. Find out what that word is in the Greek and record its transliteration and the definition of the word. Put that back in verse 12 and explain why Paul used that word and whether it changes your understanding of what Paul is saying.
  
6. There are those who lead, rule, or teach, and then there are those who are led, ruled over, or taught. God has given each person responsibilities toward the other. Take some time to read and meditate on these Scriptures and then record the information on the chart on page 114.
  - a. Romans 12:8
  - b. Romans 13:1-5
  - c. I Corinthians 9:1-18
  - d. Galatians 6:6, 10
  - e. I Timothy 1:6-7
  - f. James 3:1-3

Responsibilities of Leaders, Rulers, or Teachers	Responsibilities of Those Being Led, Ruled Over, or Taught

7. One last question to mull over before we call it a day. God is a God of order (I Corinthians 11:1). There is to be an order in the body of Christ. What happens within the body when order is disrupted.
  - a. Read I Corinthians 11:3 and record the order that you see there.
  
  - b. When order is broken, it brings strife. There is a competition to see who can grab the most powerful, prestigious position. Read Mark 10:35-45 and record what you learn.
  
  - c. How does this play out within the church body? Take into consideration all that you have studied today to answer this question. This is the reason that Paul gave the instructions that he did in verses 12-13. Those instructions seem to make perfect sense now, don't they?



b. Does Scripture give you any help to know how to admonish someone? We know that if God calls us to do something, He equips you to accomplish His will. Read the following references and record what you learn about each.

1) Proverbs 15:31-32

2) Proverbs 27:5-6

3) Proverbs 28:23

4) Ecclesiastes 8:11

5) Matthew 18:15-17

6) Galatians 6:1

7) II Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15

8) I Timothy 5:19-21

## DAY THREE

From your study to this point, you know that the church at Thessalonica was suffering a great persecution. In the midst of that suffering, there were those who were becoming fainthearted. Fainting is not of the Lord. Perfect love casts out all fear (I John 4:18), therefore, we don't have a spirit of timidity (fear) but of power, love, and discipline (II Timothy 1:7). We are called to stand firm because we are strengthened in God's power and His might (Ephesians 6:10). Yes, living in this world is hard, but we have been made overcomers through Christ (I John 5:4-5). So pull yourself up by your spiritual boot straps, put on the full armor of God, and run into the battle because the victory belongs to the Lord (Proverbs 21:31).

With that said, what must you do when you see someone who is fainthearted. Since we are members of one body, when one person is affected, it affects the body as a whole. Is it any wonder that the church today is so weak?

1. Paul tells us to "encourage the fainthearted" (comfort the feeble-minded - KJV) Look up the words "encourage (comfort)" and "fainthearted (feeble-minded)." Record what you learn.
  
2. The question you should be asking is, "How do I do that?" You are going to see the examples set forth in Scripture. Hebrews 12 is sometimes called the chastening or discipline chapter. It is designed to encourage those who are losing heart (fainting). The word heart is "psyche" which means "soul" or "life." We get the word psyche from it. Remember this battle is taking place in the mind. As a man thinks so he is (Proverbs 23:7).

Read Hebrews 12:1-3 and record how you could use these verses to encourage someone who is fainthearted.

3. Read the following verses and see if they can be useful in encouraging others to not lose heart.

a. Galatians 6:8-10

b. Ephesians 3:12-14

4. Paul had a special relationship with Timothy. Timothy was a young man who had a tendency to be fainthearted, but Paul was mentoring him to take over the ministry when Paul was put to death. Take a moment to read II Timothy 1:6-12 and record what you learn about Timothy from these verses.

5. Now watch to see how Paul came alongside Timothy to encourage him. You can learn much from. I am also throwing in a Proverbs passage for good measure. Record what you learn about working with someone who needs encouragement.

a. Proverbs 12:25

b. I Timothy 1:18-19

c. II Timothy 2:1

d. II Timothy 3:10-14

e. II Timothy 4:5

6. What about you? Are you bold or fainthearted? If you are one who tends to be a Timothy, you need to align yourself with a Paul. If you are a Paul, then you need to be on the look out for those who may be Timothys.

DAY FOUR

1. Another exhortation by Paul was to “help the weak” (support the weak - KJV). Using your study tools yet again, look up the words for “help (support)” and “weak.”







6. Paul has told us how to act toward those who are over us in verses 12-13. Then he told us how we are to behave toward each other in verses 14-15. Now he tells us how to behave in general. Did Paul practice what he preached? Read Acts 20:17-38 and see how they relate to I Thessalonians 5:12-22.

7. Read I Thessalonians 5:23-24. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have people praying verse 23 for you? How do verses 23 and 24 relate to each other. Give this some thought. There are some wonderful truths to be understood in those two verses!

#### DAY FIVE

1. You can look at what your commentaries have to say from I Thessalonians 4:13-5:28.
2. Spend some time in prayer and ask God for the ability to live out what you have learned this week. Ask Him to show you areas that are deficient in your life and how He wants you to change so you can be more effective for His kingdom.

# I Thessalonians

Lesson 11, Chapter 5