

**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.



DAY FOUR

You have been learning about your responsibility to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the dying world around you. You saw the call. You learned what you were to be proclaiming. Is there anything else that you need to preach the gospel? Let's see.

1. Read Luke 24:29 and Acts 1:8 and compare them with I Thessalonians 1:5. What do we need in order to preach the Gospel?
  
2. Read Romans 1:14-17 and I Corinthians 9:16-17 asking questions of the text. How did Paul feel about sharing the Gospel and why do you think he felt that way?
  
3. Read I Corinthians 1:17-2:5 and answer the following questions.
  - a. How did Paul feel as he delivered the message?
  
  - b. What did he preach?
  
  - c. How did the "lost" feel about his teachings of "the word of the cross?"
  
  - d. What is "the word of the cross?"

- 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