

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