

1 & 2 Thessalonians – Lesson 1

Faith, Love and Encouragement

Verses to remember

"We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 NIV)

Acts 17:1-10

1. What two cities had Paul just visited before getting to Thessalonica?

2. How long does v. 2 say Paul spent "reasoning with them from the Scriptures?"

3. What did he tell the Thessalonians about Jesus (see v. 3)?

4. What was the response, according to v. 4?

5. How did other Jews respond in v. 5-8?

6. In v. 10 the Christians send Paul and Silas away for safety. To where did they go?

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

1. According to v. 1, who are Paul's "co-authors?"

2. What do you think "grace & peace to you" means?

3. How often does Paul thank God for the Thessalonians (v. 2)?

4. What is it exactly that Paul remembers about them so fondly (see v. 3)?

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4

1. How is what Paul says here the same? How is it different?

2. He mentions that they are ever-prayerful of them, again citing some reasons in v. 3. What are they?

3. What does Paul say the Thessalonians are persevering/enduring in v. 4?

Workbook Activity (10 minutes)

List some of the simplest things you can do that show Christ's love and demonstrate your faith in Him.

It may be an act of kindness, the practicing of a spiritual discipline, or something else you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to do.

I can...

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Homework:

- Memorize 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
- Read both 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians at least one time completely during the week.
- Choose at least one of the things from your list above and commit it to the Lord, and do it this week.

1 & 2 Thessalonians – Lesson 2

The Return of Christ

Verses to remember

“May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.” (1 Thessalonians 3:13 NIV)

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. According to v. 13, do you sense that it is important to Paul for us to understand the return of Christ?

2. Who does v. 14 Paul say will be with Jesus when He returns?

3. How does v. 16-17 say the return of Christ will happen?

4. According to v. 18, what is Paul’s point in saying all this?

1 Thessalonians 4:19-5:11

1. Paul gives two examples, or metaphors, about how Jesus’ return will come about. What are they?

2. As a believer, should we be caught off guard by Christ’s coming?

3. According to v. 9, what has God destined believers for?

4. According to v. 11, what is the point of these words?

2 Thessalonians 1:4-12

1. What is Paul proud of concerning the Thessalonians, according to v. 4?

2. Relief will come, according to v. 7, when?

3. How does v. 7 depict Christ's coming?

4. What will happen to evil men at this time?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

1. What does Paul ask of the Thessalonian believers early in this passage?

2. Do you think that this must've been going on?

3. Verse 8 tells us what will happen to the man of lawlessness. What is it?

Take Aways:

1. What's one thing you learned about the return of Christ you didn't know before?

2. How can sharing these things encourage the body of Christ?

3. Do you think Christians focus too much on the when/where/how parts of the end times?

4. If the point is encouragement and building each other up, how can we do that practically?

Homework:

- Memorize 1 Thessalonians 3: 13
- Find a way this week to encourage another believer with the truth that Jesus is coming. Maybe you can pass a friend a note in the hall at school. Maybe a text message or e-mail can remind another believer to be self-controlled, because Jesus is coming.
- Read both 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians completely again during the week.

1 & 2 Thessalonians – Lesson 3

Living to Please God

Verses to remember

“Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.” (1 Thessalonians 4:1 NIV)

1 Thessalonians 4:1-3a

1. By whose authority is Paul saying these things?

2. What is the goal of these instructions?

3. Whose will is it, according to v. 3, that we be made holy?

1 Thessalonians 4:3b-12

HOW TO PLEASE GOD – Commands from Paul	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

1. Do you think this is all that pleases God? Why/why not?

2. Why do you think Paul chooses the things he lists here? Why not some other stuff?

3. There are about the same amount of "do not's" as there are "do's." Which do you think is more important when it comes to pleasing God—not doing bad stuff or doing good stuff?

4. How would you describe living a pure life?

5. What kind of purity is this passage discussing?

6. Why would living a sexually pure life please God?

PURITY
1 Corinthians 6: 18-20

1. Why does the 1 Corinthians passage say we should honor God with our bodies?

2. How do you think our sexual impurity makes God feel about the price He paid for us?

LOVE
1 John 4:20-21

1. You've probably heard that we should "love one another," but what does that mean to you?

2. Paul says in 1 Thessalonians that they were doing a good job at loving each other...what does a loving church family look like?

3. How do you feel like you could love other people better?

DISCIPLINE
1 Corinthians 9:23-27

1. What examples does he use to describe his discipline?

2. What is his motivation (see v. 23)?

3. What is the motivation of your life? Is it the gospel?

4. How could you be a more disciplined person in your speech, attention, work, etc.?

Homework:

- Memorize 1 Thessalonians 4:1
- Review your list of Paul's commands to live a life pleasing to God.
- Ask God in prayer to show you how to be more pure, loving and disciplined, and for ways to practice these qualities this week.

1 & 2 Thessalonians – Lesson 4

Pray Continually

Verses to remember

"Pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17 NIV)

"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV)

Workbook Activity

Honestly answer the following questions:

- 1.) Who do you spend the most time talking to each day? _____
- 2.) How much time do you think you spend talking to that person? _____
- 3.) How well do you feel like you know that person? _____
- 4.) How well do you think that person knows you? _____
- 5.) Why do you think communication helps us understand people? _____

1 Thessalonians 1:2 _____

1 Thessalonians 3:10 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:17 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:25 _____

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 _____

2 Thessalonians 3:1 _____

1. Based on these verses alone, why do we pray?

2. Based on these verses alone, how often should we pray?

3. Based on these verses alone, what do we pray for?

PRAY ALL THE TIME!

1. Do these words describe how often you pray? (always, night and day, continually, and constantly)

2. How much time each day do you spend talking to God, honestly? _____

3. How can those habits change and you still be able to go to school and eat and sleep? How can you pray so much and not flunk your classes?

PRAY FOR OTHERS!

1. Do any of these verses mention praying for yourself? _____

2. If you're honest, how much time do you spend praying about your own needs/wants?

3. Why do you think it would be better to not pray for yourself but instead focus on the needs of others?

Prayer Exercise

Use the space below to record your thoughts while participating in the prayer exercise.

(See also Matthew 6: 9-13)

Homework:

- Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Review verses from previous lessons: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 3:13; and 4:1
- Find a quiet place and spend at least thirty minutes one day this week to simply pray to God.