

THE STUDY OF I THESSALONIANS

This study is designed to encourage you to begin to develop a solid foundation for the book or epistle you are studying. In each study you will find a brief background on the book or letter, general themes found in the book, a list of key words found within the chapter and a set of questions can be answered directly from the verse provided at the end of the question.

Please plan to read the book or letter in its entirety first then begin the study. You will need a pen, a note pad, and your Bible. Once you've read through the entire book go back to the beginning and read the first chapter. Circle key words in that chapter. Compare your key words with the key words listed in the study. Now read the chapter again, and mark in your margin, key points. Jot down key points on your own note pad.

Answer the questions for chapter one. You will find the answer in the verse provided at the end of the question. When you have finished the questions, retitle the chapter. The names and subtitles are not divinely inspired but place there for to give clarity. This exercise will help you develop in your own mind, the important aspects of each chapter. Proceed in this fashion until you finish the course of study. You will find that when the study is repeated you will glean new and fresh revelation each time. Before you begin however, begin in prayer asking the Lord to give you revelation and understanding.

1. Read the entire book or epistle in one day if possible.
2. Next, read the 1st chapter marking all key words.
3. Compare your key words with those listed in the study.
4. Make a note in the margin of the key points in each chapter
5. Jot down the key points on your own note pad.
6. Read the chapter again.

7. Answer the questions for each chapter and retitling the chapter.

When you complete the study you should have a solid foundational understanding of what the author was conveying through the power of the Holy Spirit. Small group studies or Sunday school classes will find it extremely helpful to allow for open discussion after each chapter. Plan on covering one half a chapter per week if you do have discussion. If you are not in a small group or Adult Bible Fellowship, then you may want to encourage a friend to join you in your study. Now let's begin.

Background

Read Acts 17:1-10

The Apostle Paul along with Silvanus and Timothy join together in Paul's in salutation (1:1) to the church in Thessalonica. The letter was written about 54 AD from Corinth and was the first of Paul's epistles. Paul had been in Philippi (Acts 16: 8-12) traveled southwesterly 90 miles to Thessalonica. The city of Thessalonica was the capital and also the largest city in the Roman province of Macedonia. It was located on a major road (military highway from western Balkan Coast to the present day Istanbul) from Rome to the eastern provinces. It was ruled by a class known as the *politarchs*, a class of officials peculiar to the region (Acts 17:6) Today, it is known as Thessaloniki, or Salonica, the capital of Greek Macedonia. (Acts 17:1-10)

Paul went to the synagogue and declared Jesus as Son of God, the Messiah (Acts 17:1-10) A church was then established. They became well-known for their faith throughout the region Many of those who were in attendance had turned from idols to follow the living God, according to Paul's letter (1 Thess 1:9) therefore we know that the church had both Jew and Gentile converts.

Paul's ministry had caused quite a stir with the Roman officials as well as with the Jewish opponents. Acts 17:7 records the social upheaval caused by calling Jesus Lord. In light of the customs of the day which required special honor due Caesar, Paul's declarations were apparently received as a form of civil rebellion. Certainly, the Jewish establishment considered Paul's words as blasphemous. A commotion ensued. Paul and Silas left in the middle of the night. Jason was arrested and forced to pay a fine. Afterwards, Paul tried twice to return to Thessalonica but Satan hindered him (2:18)

The church was under great persecution (Acts 17:5-9) Paul sent Timothy back to check on them and when he returned to Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:5) Timothy reported that the church had great zeal and steadfastness in propagating the Gospel, but that they had some issues of great concern. Timothy reported that there were issues of ethical proportions (inappropriate sexual relations I Thess. 4:4-7) and some questions regarding eschatological. They were concerned that those who had previously died would be at a disadvantage when the rapture occurred. Therefore Paul addressed their concerns regarding the coming of the Lord and assured them that those who had died would not miss anything, but instead be very much apart of that day. (I Thess 4:13-18) The church in Philippi sent Paul support at least twice while he was in Thess. Phil 4:16

The letter is the earliest preserved letters of Paul. According to the Gallio inscription, public copy of the letter from the Roman emperor to the proconsul Achaia, it has been affirmed that the book is most likely the first NT book written in 50-51 AD

Themes

The Coming of the Lord
Holiness and Purity
Confirmation of Paul's Ministry
Sanctification

Chapter 1

Imitate Christ

1. Who is included with Paul in the writing this letter? vs 1
2. Who was the letter written to? Vs 1
3. What two blessings did Paul bestow on the receivers? Vs 1
4. Paul and his ministry partners gave _____ to God and mentioned these believers to God in their _____. Vs 2
5. What three commendations were given from Paul to the church in Thessalonica? vs 2-3
6. What does Paul infer when he uses these terms "work of faith," "labor of love," and "steadfastness in hope?" Vs 3
7. Paul writes that there believers were specifically "His choice of them." What does this say about your relationship with God? Vs 4
8. The Gospel came in both _____ and in _____. Vs 5
9. Word void of powers is word void of the _____. Vs 5
10. How did Paul say the Gospel came to the Thessalonians? with full _____ Vs 5

11. Paul implied that because the Gospel came in Word and in power through the _____ with full _____, this proved what kind of men they were for _____ sake. Vs5
12. These believers became _____ of Paul's team and of the _____. Vs 6
13. The believers in Thessalonica received the word with much _____ and with the _____ of the _____ _____. Vs 6
14. How did they receive the Word? vs 6
15. What did the church become to those in Macedonia and Achaia? Vs 7
16. The Word of God had sounded forth from the church of Thessalonica, therefore Paul acknowledged their faith and the impact it was having on the region. T or F vs 8
17. Paul commended them because their faith towards God had gone out _____. Vs 8
18. What kind of reception did Paul have with them? Vs 9
19. Many there had turned from _____ to serve a _____ and _____ _____. vs 9
20. They were encouraged to wait for Jesus from _____. How does that effect our day to day living? Vs 10
21. Jesus was _____ from the dead. Vs 10
22. Who will deliver them from the wrath to come? Vs 10

Key Words

Characteristics of the church
Work of Faith
Labor of love
Steadfastness in hope
Power of the Holy Spirit
Imitators (and an example) of Paul and Christ
Idols
Followers and an example
Hope

Hope: eipis Strong's # 1680

not as in wishful thinking or an optimistic outlook without foundation, but with a sense of **confident expectation** based on solid certainty. Biblical hope is based on God's promises, not on our wishes

Key Points

Paul wanted to encourage the church in Thessalonica. He recognized their hard work in the faith, their labor of love, and the hope they had in the truth of the Gospel and encouraged them to remember so they would be confident of their election.

He commended them on their diligence to share the Gospel and how they had become a beacon of light in that region. He acknowledged that many had turned from idols to serve the only true God.

4 Ways the Gospel Should Be Preached

1. In Word (vs 5, Mt 28:20, Mk 16:15, Lk 24:47, I Cor 1:18-24)
2. In Power (vs 5, Mt 17:20, Mk 16:16-17, Lk 24:49, Jn 14:12, I Cor 4:20)
3. In the Holy Spirit (vs 5, Lk 24:49, Acts 1:4-8, Ro 15:18-20, 29. Heb 2:4)
4. In much assurance (vs 5)

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not [a]personally seen my face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth [b]that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself, Co 2:2

Chapter 2

Conduct in Ministry

1. Paul's visit was not in vain. His team was spitefully treated in Philippi. T or F vs 2
2. After suffering and being mistreated, Paul and his ministry partners had _____ to speak the Gospel amid such _____. Vs 2
3. Exhortations did not come from _____, _____ or by _____. Vs 3
4. Since the message came from men _____ of God, because they had been _____ with it, they sought to please _____ and not please _____. Vs4
5. Who approved the ministry of Paul? Vs 4
6. What had they been entrusted with? Vs 4
7. Who examines our hearts? Vs 4
8. Paul confirmed that they did not come out of _____. Vs 5

9. Paul states that they came, not with flattery or in a cloak of covetousness, nor did they come seeking their own glory. What could they have used as a means of self-promotion? Vs 6
10. Asserting Apostolic authority was possible because they were _____of Christ. Vs 6
11. Paul and his team proved to be _____among them. Vs7
12. What does Paul compare his ministry to the church with? Vs 7
13. How does a loving mother care for her children? Vs 7
14. How should we then, handle those under our leadership? Vs 7
15. Paul had fond _____for these believers. Vs 8
16. Paul said they were happy to impart the Gospel. What else was he happy to impart to the church at Thessalonica and why? Vs 8
17. Paul's team labored so that they might not become a _____ to the church. vs 9
18. They worked day and _____. Vs 9
19. Who were Paul's witnesses to his teams work ethic and character? Vs 10
20. How did they behave among the believers there? vs 11
21. Paul exhorted, comforted, and charged the believers there as a _____ would his own _____. vs 12
22. Paul did this so they would walk in a manner worthy of _____. vs 12

23. How did the church receive the Word Paul brought to them? vs 13
24. Paul wrote that the word of God did something in them. What was it? Vs 13
25. Who had they become imitators of? and what did they experience because of their new found faith in Jesus as Messiah? vs 14
26. Who is Paul referring to when he claims they had killed the Lord, killed their own prophets, persecuted Paul, and do not please God? vs 15
27. Who had they forbade Paul to preach to? vs 16
28. This hindrance resulted in them filling up the measure of their _____. Vs 16
29. Pauls team wanted to see them with great _____. Vs17
30. Who thwarted Paul from returning back to Thessalonica? Vs18
31. Who was Paul's hope, joy and crown of rejoicing in? Vs 19
32. Why were they Paul's glory and joy? V 19-20s 20

Key Words

Suffered and mistreated
Approved and entrusted
Flattering speech or greed
Impart to you, the gospel and our own lives
Proclaimed the Gospel

Paul: devout, upright, blameless

Paul: Exhort, encourage, implore

Walk worthy

Word of God

Key Points

Paul's ministry was approved of God. He had been entrusted with the responsibility of sharing, exhorting, encouraging and imploring the believers to walk worthy of their call and to be imitators of himself and of Christ. He wanted them to understand his intentions, that they were not based on greed or captivating speech, but instead, from a pure heart and an assignment of God.

holiness Strongs # 42 hagiosune

The process, quality, and condition of a holy disposition and the quality of holiness in personal conduct. This principle separates the believer from the world. We are consecrated to the service of God, dedicated and committed to a life of purity, and desire the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit working in our hearts that we might be conformed to the image of Christ.

Chapter 3

Encouraged in Ministry

1. Why did Paul stay behind in Athens? Vs 1
2. Why did Paul send Timothy and what did he do for them? Vs 1-2
3. What had Paul and his ministry partners been destined to? Vs2
4. Paul wanted them to not be shaken, because he was called to preach the Good News? T or F vs 3-4

5. Paul warned them in advance that he would suffer what? vs 4
6. What was Paul wanting Timothy to find out when he was sent back to the believers there? Vs 5
7. What was Timothy's report? Vs 6
8. What did Paul say he feared? Vs 6
9. Although Paul was suffering, the news brought Paul great _____. Vs 7
10. Even in his distress and affliction, Paul declared that because of the Gospel they "really _____" Vs 8
11. What did Paul urge them to do? Vs 8
12. Paul rejoiced over their progress. T or F vs 9
13. What did Paul pray for? vs 10
14. Paul prayed also that they increase in what? vs 12
15. Paul hoped they could complete what was missing the the believers _____. Vs 12
16. He prayed that they might increase and abound in _____. Vs 13
17. He prayed that their hearts might be established without _____ in _____. Vs 13
18. Define holiness.

Key Words

Suffer Affliction
Tempter
Stand firm
Establish hearts in holiness
Coming of the Lord
Holiness

Key Points

Paul wanted to reassure the church that, though they (Paul and his ministry partners) had suffered much, they were well aware that it was part of the responsibility. He sent Timothy to make sure they were continuing in the faith regardless of the circumstances, so that their work in Thessalonica was not in vain. He confirmed that the dead in Christ will rise first, and then those who are living will be “caught up” with them in the air. A shout, a voice of the archangel, the sound of the trumpet will initiate the ingathering of the saints to Christ in all His glory.

Chapter 4

Life of Purity

1. Paul and his ministry team gave the the believers _____. Vs 1
2. The instruction Paul gave them would encourage them to do what? Vs 1
3. By who’s authority did Paul give them these commands? Vs 2
4. Paul told them to abstain from what? vs 3

5. They were to abstain from sexual immorality because it is the _____ of _____. Vs 3
6. He told them that they should know how to do what? Vs 4
7. The gentiles handled their own vessels in _____ and _____. Vs 5
8. Paul warned that no one should take _____ or defraud a brother or sister in matters of _____ because God is the avenger of those who do such things. T or F vs 6
9. God did not call us to _____ but to _____. vs 7
10. If someone rejects this teaching, he does not reject man but _____. Vs 8
11. God has taught them to _____ one another. Paul wrote that they need no other to write to them concerning this matter. What does that say to us today. Vs 9
12. Paul urged them to do excel more in _____? vs 10
13. Paul also told them to do what (3 commands) Vs 11
 - a. lead a _____
 - b. attend to your now _____
 - c. _____ with your _____
14. How should the believers treat outsiders? _____ properly and not be in any _____ Vs 12
15. Paul does not want the believers to be ignorant about those who have fallen asleep (died) like the unbelievers who were without what? vs 13

16. If we believe Jesus died and arose, what should we know about those who have died? Vs 14
17. Who will go first at the coming of the Lord, the dead or those alive? Vs 15
18. What sounds will notify the coming of the Lord? Vs 16
 - a. a _____ with the voice of the _____
 - b. with the _____ of _____
19. At that sound, who will rise first? vs 17
20. Where will the believers be caught up with Jesus and those who have died? vs 18
21. We will meet Jesus in the _____. Vs17
22. We will always be with the Lord. T or F vs 19
23. Read Matt 24:30, 31
24. This truth will bring _____ to the hearer? Vs 18

Conversions

Aristarchus, a Jew (Col 4:10, 11)
Devout Greeks who were attendees in the synagogue, but had not converted into Judaism (I Thess)
Prominent women (Acts 17:4)

Key Words

Authority

Sanctification
Sexual Immorality
Lustful passions
Defraud a brother or sister
Avenger
Reject God
Love of the brethren
Quiet life
Uninformed, ignorant
Caught up: loud shout, the voice of the archangel, the sound of the trumpets
Coming of the Lord

Caught up: Strong's # 726 harpadzo har-pod-zoe:
to seize, to snatch away, to catch up, to take by force.
Paul caught up to Paradise II Cor 12:2-4
Phillip's translation Acts 8:39

Key Points

Sanctification, purification and glorification are the three main thoughts Paul was conveying here. He wanted them to know that they must go through the process of cleansing, to walk worthy of their call and to live in such a way that pleases God. He encouraged them to abstain from sexual immorality and to realize that God is an avenger who will deal with those who defraud another. Paul also reminds the church that the dead in Christ will rise first and then those who are alive will join them in the air with Jesus.

Chapter 5

Day of the Lord

1. Paul writes that the day of the Lord comes as what? Vs 2
2. Words of peace and safety will be a prelude to what? Vs 3
3. Destruction will come upon them like a woman in _____
_____? Vs3
4. Believers are not in _____ that the day should not
_____you. Vs 4
5. Believers are sons of _____ and sons of _____not sons of the
_____nor _____. Vs 5
6. Paul exhorts believers to keep _____ and _____. vs 6
7. Those who sleep, sleep at night as does those who drink. What should
the believer put on? . Breastplate of _____ and helmet of _____
and hope of _____Vs 8
8. Since we believers are of the day, let us be _____. Vs 8
9. God did not appoint us for _____but appointed us for
_____ through _____ Vs 9
10. Whether asleep or awake, we should live together with _____.
Vs 10
11. Believers should _____one another and _____ each
other up . Vs11
12. What should believers do for those who labor over them? Vs 12
13. Believers should _____those who labor over them very _____
in _____because of their work. Vs 13

14. Believers should live at _____ with one another. Vs13
15. What should the believers do for the fainthearted? Vs 14
16. What should the believer do for the unruly? Vs 14
17. We should never repay evil with evil but pursue what? Vs15
18. What should the believer do for the weak? Vs 15
19. Paul instructs us to do what always? Vs 16
20. We are to _____ without ceasing. vs 17
21. What is the will of God for us to do in all circumstances? Vs 18
22. We are not to _____ the Spirit. Vs 19
23. We are not to despise _____. Vs 20
24. We are to examine what carefully? Vs 21
25. We are to hold fast to that which is _____. Vs 21
26. We are to abstain from what? Vs 22
27. Paul prays that God will _____ you entirely. Vs 23
28. Paul prayed that our whole spirit, soul and body be _____
_____ without _____? vs 23
29. _____ is the one who calls you. Vs 24\
30. _____ will bring it to pass. Vs 24

31. God will bring what to pass? Vs 24

32. Who will do the sanctifying work? Vs 24

33. Paul reminds the believers to _____for them. Vs 25

34. The believers should greet one another with a _____ .
Vs 26

35. Who should read this letter according to Paul? Vs 27

Key Words

Caught up

Day of the Lord

Thief in the night

Sons of Light

Sober and alert

Breastplate of faith and love

Helmet: the hope of salvation

Key Points

Paul is clearly conveying the message that the Day of the Lord is coming Church. Be alert, Be sober. Do not be as men walking in darkness but instead as sons of light. Be girded up with your armor: the breastplate of faith and love and the helmet of the hope of salvation. Stand firm and be on guard. He also tells us to encourage each other with these words.. Paul reminds the believers to appreciate those who are laborious in ministry, to esteem them highly. He tells the believers to admonish the unruly, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak and be patient with all. Paul

encourages the believers to pray, to rejoice, to not quench the Holy Spirit and to not despise prophesy. He prayed that they be kept whole and without blame, body, soul and spirit. Paul also prayed that God sanctify them entirely.

The Work of the Ministry

They suffered
They were mistreated
They were approved by God
They were entrusted with the Gospel
They did not seek glory from men
They were gentle as a nursing mother
They were as concerned as a loving father
They worked night and day as to not become a burden to the church
They did it not out of: of error, impurity, or deceit,
Nor did they use flattering speech or under the pretext of greed
They were to impart the Gospel
They were to impart their own lives into the believers

The Character of a Minister

Devout
Upright
Blameless
Behave properly toward other believers and outsiders as well
As a father would a loving son
As a mother would care for a child

Exhortations

Walk worthy

Encourage the faint-hearted
Help the weak
Be patient with all men
Do not repay evil with evil
Become imitators of Paul and of Christ
Endure suffering
Lead a quiet and peaceful life
Attend to your own business
Work with your hands
Be alert and sober
Put on the breastplate of faith, love and the helmet of the hope of salvation
Esteem others as more highly than yourselves
Live in peace with one another

These letters were to encourage the new believers to persist in the faith in the face of strong opposition, to encourage personal sanctification, to encourage them about those who had "fallen asleep." Paul wanted to warn them about the Lord returning as a "thief in the night" and to correct thinking about the coming Antichrist, among writing about other important matters.

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