Women’s Bible Study

I & II Thessalonians

We are studying I and II Thessalonians this year, using Studies in I&II Thessalonians

 by Rev. C. Hanko. Many of our notes will be taken from New Testament Commentary on First and Second Thessalonians, by William Hendrikson as suggested by Rev. Hanko.

Each day we will suggest a verse for you to take with you, which ties in with the day’s study.

 Perhaps you would like to write it out and set it where you will see it during the day.

 Our first study begins on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Our first meeting will be held on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**First study** - Introduction and Overview of I Thessalonians - Studies in I & II Thessalonians pages 3-9

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**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Day One\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The First Epistle to the Church at Thessalonica**

Today we will begin an overview of First Thessalonians.

In our daily study we will have some questions in addition to the questions given by Rev. Hanko in his Study Guides. When a question from the Study Guide is used, the number of the question, and the page it appears on is listed after the question.

**First Thessalonians**

**Read:** First Thessalonians Chapters One, Two and Three

**Do:** 1. Read the Preface to Rev. Hanko’s study guide: Studies in I&II Thessalonians pages 3-4.

1. Read the Overview (Introduction) of I Thessalonians in the study guide on page 5.
2. Trace Paul’s second missionary journey on the map and locate Thessalonica. (page 6)

**Food for thought:** “Paul had ‘suffered’ and had been ‘shamefully treated’ in Philippi. Hence, it took courage to enter a new field after such experiences. On the other hand, this labor was not in vain…Paul’s heart was in his message…there never was any attempt at flattery. Nevertheless, the truth was spoken in the spirit of tender affection and gentleness. Thus, with the warmth of inner conviction, deeply persuaded of the supreme importance of his message, the great missionary, dealing with each man as a father with his children, taught, exhorted, and encouraged. And the Holy Spirit applied the message to the hearts of several of the hearers. Many were converted. They accepted the message as being the word not of men but of God. From that moment on they sought, with the help of the Spirit, to please God. Love ruled the brotherhood. A church was established. Its membership was filled with contagious enthusiasm. In every heart there was a song, on every lip a testimony.” William Hendrickson

**To take with you today:** II Timothy 3:16

**We should bear in mind that also now we are treading on holy ground.**

 **We are dealing with the infallibly inspired Scriptures,**

**which must be considered reverently and accepted in simple child-like faith.** (Rev. Hanko)

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**\_\_Day\_Two\_\_**

**Doctrines Taught in I Thessalonians**

Today we will look at several verses which point out the doctrines Paul taught

 in his first epistle to the Thessalonians

 **I Thessalonians** Continued…

**Day\_2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cont.**

**Read:** First Thessalonians Chapters Four and Five

**Do:** In his New Testament Commentary on Thessalonians, Wm. Hendrickson points out that there are three lines of interest in these epistles. Paul as theologian, Paul the man - with windows into the heart of the great apostle, and Paul the missionary. We will take one day to look into each of these aspects in these epistles.

 Today we will look at the doctrines Paul taught in his letters to the Thessalonians.

1. From the following passages, write the doctrines Paul taught:

 1:10 2:19&20

 3:11-13 4:13-18

 5: 23&24

1. Now ask yourself: what do these great truths mean for me today?

**Food for thought:** “ When the Lord Jesus returns, God will bring with him those who, throughout the ages, have lived the life of Christian separation from the world and of devotion to God. By God they had been ‘set apart’ to his worship and service so that, through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, they had become saints ‘in experience as well as position’ (to use a phrase employed b K. S. Wuest; Golden Nuggets, p. 72) and at death had entered the kingdom above.” Wm. Hendrickson

‘And as for you, may the Lord cause you to abound and to overflow in love…in order that he may strengthen your hearts so that they with all his saints may be blameless in holiness in the presence of our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus.’ I Thes. 3:12&13 paraphrased by Wm. Hendrickson

**To take with you today:** I Thes. 3: 12&13

**Set apart to His worship, through His Holy Spirit, blameless in holiness at Christ’s coming!**

**How can we not live to His praise and glory today?**

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**Day\_Three\_**

**The Heart of the Child of God Revealed in Thessalonians**

Today we look at Paul’s epistle to see the heart of the man God inspired to write this portion of His Word.

**I Thessalonians**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 2: 1-12 I Thessalonians 5:12-24

**Do:** Today we will look at how Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, gives us, as Hendrickson writes - “windows into his (Paul’s) heart”.

1. What do the following verses reveal about Paul’s life and heart as a child of God? What was important to him, of what was he totally convicted?

 2:1-12

 3:1-10

 5:12-24 Continued…

**Day\_3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, cont.**

1. How would you describe Paul, using the above passages?
2. Is that description particular to Paul or should it describe every child of God?
3. Now let’s think back on our own lives over the past few days. What do my words and thoughts and actions reveal about me as a child of God?

**Food for thought:** Rev. J. Kortering in the SB article: I Thessalonians - Pastoral Care for an Infant Church shows how in just one section of I Thessalonians we see Paul’s love for the church there.

 “In This next section, (2:17-3:13) Paul discloses his personal concern for the welfare of the church there, and he tells how he seeks their good. Even after he endangered his life by going to Thessalonica, Paul still desired to return to them for spiritual fellowship, but was hindered by Satan. Instead, Paul sent Timothy to comfort them. He further explains that persecutions are divinely appointed and believers are to expect them. Nevertheless, he was much concerned to know how they withstood the tempter. Upon Timothy’s return and assurance that they were faithful, Paul is comforted and rejoices before God with thanksgiving. He reaffirms his desire to return to them and to strengthen them in their faith by a personal visit. In the meanwhile, he commits this desire to God in prayer and asks God to make them increase in love toward each other and to strengthen their faith until the Lord returns.”

**To take with you today:** I Thessalonians 3:9

**May we find in Paul’s love for the Thessalonians an example to follow,**

**that in sincere concern for one another, we pray for one another,**

**and we build one another up in the faith.**

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**Day\_Four\_**

**The Work of a Missionary**

Today we will again look over this epistle, looking at Paul’s work as a missionary of the Gospel of Christ.

**I Thessalonians**

**Read:** Acts 17: 1-19

**Do:** Paul’s work as a missionary is clearly seen by his work in Thessalonica and his epistle to the Thessalonians.

1. What do the following verses teach us about how Paul brought the gospel?

 Acts 17: 1-19 (Paul’s work at Thessalonica)

 I Thessalonians 1:5-10 (The contents and success of Paul’s missionary message)

1. We are not called to be missionaries but we are called to let our light shine where we are. How is my life a living example of faith to those around me?
2. To learn more of Paul’s missionary work at Thessalonica, read the following portion of the Standard Bearer article by Rev. J. Kortering - I Thessalonians - Pastoral Care for an Infant Church:

 “In attempting to summarize the single message of this epistle, we encounter difficulty. This letter is a good example of Paul as pastor, instructing the rather young church of Thessalonica how to deal with specific problems that arose in her midst. article continued…

**Day\_4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, cont.**

THE CHURCH AT THESSALONICA

Paul visited Thessalonica for the first time during his second missionary journey.

 “The city had already had an illustrious history. Its name was chosen by Cassander in 315 B.C. and named after his wife, Thessalonica, daughter of Philip II, step-sister of Alexander the Great. It was made the capital of Macedonia in 146 B.C. by the Romans. In the struggle within the Roman republic, Thessalonica sided with Antony and Octavian, 42 B.C., and subsequently was made a free city. Its main attraction was its harbor on the Aegean Sea and it served as a station on the East-West highway from the Far East to the Adriatic Sea. It prospered with business and shipping, numbering about 200,000 citizens when Paul arrived.

 From Acts 17 and this letter to the Thessalonians, we learn something about Paul’s missionary labors there and how the church was organized. Leaving Philippi, Paul and his traveling companions passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia and came to Thessalonica. There he visited the Jewish synagogue for three Sabbaths (Acts 17:2). We should take note of the fact that Thessalonica was a “free city,” hence the Jews sought residence there and were able to engage in business and have their own synagogue. This was in contrast to Philippi, a Roman military town. Paul showed the Jews that the Christ he preached was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, the promised Messiah (Acts 17:3, 4). Some of these Jews believed in Christ. Along with them were a goodly number of Greeks and proselytes, including some of the women of social standing. Some of the men converts mentioned later included Aristarchus, Secundus, and probably Gaius (Acts 20:4, Acts 19:29)….

 How long had Paul labored in Thessalonica? Some scholars conclude that the reference to “three Sabbaths” means that they were there for only three weeks. This would not coincide, however, with other facts that we learn. According to I Thessalonians 1:9, Gentiles were added to the church. For them to be converted from heathen idolatry to the Christian faith would involve more than Paul preaching in a Jewish synagogue for three Sabbaths. In addition to this, Paul makes mention of his laboring, in all likelihood in tent-making, in order to earn his own way lest he be accused of making money by preaching (II Thess. 3:8). The most convincing proof of a longer stay is found in Philippians 4:16 in which he tells the Philippians that they sent money to him twice while he labored in Thessalonica. All of this leads us to conclude that Paul labored there at least for months. Ramsey is quoted in I.S.B.E. as suggesting that Paul was there from December A.D. 50 until May A.D. 51.

 What do we know about the congregation at Thessalonica? From this letter it is apparent that the church was composed mainly of Gentile converts, who at one time practiced idolatry. “Ye turned unto God from idols” (I Thess. 1:9). They were dear to the heart of Paul, for he mentions how he wanted to come unto them more than once, but Satan hindered him (I Thess. 2:18, 3:10, 11). He makes special mention of their devotion to God and how the truth was spoken by them to others in Macedonia and Achaia. As a result of this, they have a reputation of being strong in their faith (I Thess.1:8). This is remarkable when we consider that they were converted from heathendom only a few months earlier. Even the problems Paul deals with in this letter indicate that they struggled to be faithful, and Paul sought to help them as a young pastor would seek the good of his flock.”

**Food for thought:** “..as to Paul the missionary, his ‘strategy’ (proclaiming the message in the great centers, making use of the synagogue, basing his argumentation upon the prophecies of the Old Testament, etc.) is as clearly evident at Thessalonica as anywhere else… What is offered in these two short epistles is…above all a part of God’s infallible special revelation, which comes to every believer with absolute, divine authority, and shows him what he should believe and how he should live.”

 Wm. Hendrikson

 Continued..

**Day\_4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, cont.**

**To take with you today:** I Thessalonians 1:6&7

**Having been taught the gospel by the preaching of the Word,**

**and believing that this word is part of God’s infallible special revelation,**

**may we strive to live according to what we have been taught, and radiate the joy of which it assures us.**

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**Day\_Five**

**The Founding of the Church at Thessalonica**

Today we will take a look at how the church at Thessalonica was established.

**Acts 16 & 17**

**Read:** Acts 16:14 through Acts 17:15

**Do:**

1. Why did Paul and the others leave Philippi, and where did they stop next?

 (Of interest: Hendrickson wrote: “Altogether the distance of actual travel from Philippi to Thessalonica was about a hundred miles, comparable to that from Grand Rapids to Flint.”)

1. What did Paul do in Thessalonica?
2. I Thes. 1:5
3. Acts 17:2

 I Thes. 2:2,8,11,12 I Thes. 4: 1&2

1. How long did Paul stay in Thessalonica? Acts 17:2

 (Of interest - Hendrickson wrote: “The three-week figure is mentioned in Acts 17:2. But it should be noted that it probably merely indicates the duration of his teaching in the synagogue. If it be borne in mind that a church of considerable size was established here (implied in I Thess. 5:12), that many of the citizens of Thessalonica turned from the worship of idols to serve the living God ( I Thess. 1:9), that this spiritual awakening was so far-reaching that its report spread in every direction, and especially that during the ‘campaign’ in this city Paul twice received a bounty from the church at Philippi (Phil. 4:16), the conclusion lies ready at hand that the total period of time which the missionaries spent in founding the new church was somewhat longer that three weeks.)

1. What do the following verses show about the young church?

 I Thes. 1:5 I Thes. 2:13

 I Thes. 4:1 I Thes. 4: 9&10

1. Who were included in the church?

 Acts 17:4 I Thes. 1:9

1. To learn more about Paul’s letter to the church at Thessalonica, read the following quoted section from Rev. Kortering’s Standard Bearer article:

 “AUTHOR-OCCASION-DATE

As usual, Paul identifies himself as the author. “Paul and Silvanus (Silas) and Timotheus, unto the church of Thessalonica” (1: 1). No one has questioned this except more recent schools of higher criticism which have questioned everything in the Bible. There is no substance to their opposition. From Acts 17 we learn that Paul, Timothy, and Silas all fled from Thessalonica by night. article continued…

**Day 5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, cont.** “They went to Berea, where the Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica in that they did not reject the Word offhand but searched the Old Testament Scriptures to determine whether Paul taught the truth or not. Word soon reached Thessalonica that this was true. So hostile were the Jews there, that they sent a delegation to Berea to try to stir up the people there as well. They succeeded in driving Paul out of the city. Timothy and Silas, however, remained behind. Paul went to Athens where he preached on Mars’ Hill and labored briefly. No church was established there. Paul sent for Timothy and Silas and asked them to come down to Athens. After they rejoined Paul, all went their separate ways for a time: Timothy went to Thessalonica (I Thess. 3:2), Silas probably went to Philippi, and Paul went to Corinth. Still later, they rejoined Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:5).

 The spiritual condition of the church at Thessalonica is evident in this letter which was sent by Paul to them after he received this report from Timothy. In the main, the report was favorable. Yet he mentioned certain areas of concern that needed immediate attention. A list of them is given in Harrison’s *Introduction to the New Testament.* “First, persecution had broken out, for which Paul may have felt in a measure responsible, since its first outbreak came during his ministry in Thessalonica. At any rate, he undertook to bring encouragement to his readers, commending them for fidelity in their trials (2: 14; 3: l-4). Second, there was a current of criticism against Paul, probably set in motion by Jewish opposition, which not only found fault with the conduct of his ministry in Thessalonica, but also, it seems, ventured to call in question his motives: This elicited from Paul a defense of his conduct (2:1-12). Third, the Christian standard of holiness required reiteration for the benefit of those who had so recently come out of Paganism, where moral ideals were low (4:1-8). Fourth, the death of certain members of the congregation created concern for their welfare by loved ones and raised questions concerning their participation in the final salvation to be attained at the coming of the Lord. Paul sought to give instruction and comfort suitable to this situation (4:13-18). Fifth, a tendency to restlessness and inattention to the daily tasks, which may have been due to an unhealthy attitude toward the return of Christ, needed rebuke (4:ll). Sixth, there was some failure to understand the place of spiritual gifts and even a tendency to repress them (5:19).”

 Taking into consideration that Paul wrote this letter from Corinth, while he labored there on his second missionary journey, we can fix the date as the year A.D. 51 or thereabout… Paul’s labor in Corinth was for eighteen months, which began in the summer of A.D. 50. This letter then was more than likely written during the year A.D. 51.”

**Food for thought:** “Paul never forgot the extraordinary response which his message had received in Thessalonica. When a little while later he writes a letter to this church, he makes mention of the joyful and enthusiastic manner in which the word had been taken to heart (I Thes. 1:6); and of the fact that this congregation had become an example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia (I Thes.1:7). He even adds that whenever people talk about him they describe him as the man through whose preaching a mighty spiritual change had been brought about in Thessalonica. The great missionary feels very happy about this for it makes his work easier. Wherever he goes the fame of his message has preceded him. Indeed, the new converts have not kept quiet.” Wm. Hendrickson

**To take with you today:** I Thes. 1:8

**May the joy of the gospel which flowed out of the hearts and lives of the Thessalonians**

 **be an incentive for us to sound out in our actions and words today what God has done for us.**

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**Day\_Six**

**The Purpose of the Epistle to the Thessalonians**

Today we will look at why God had Paul write a letter to the Thessalonians

 **I Thessalonians** Continued…

**Day\_6\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. cont**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 2:3-10 and 5:1-11

**Do:** 1. As to the purpose for which Paul wrote this epistle to the Thessalonians, Wm. Hendrickson wrote the following:

 “It is clear that Paul was filled with deep concern and warm affection for this church, so recently established. He writes his letter in order:

1. to meet head-on the whispering campaign with reference to his ‘personality’ and motives (see chapters 1 and 2)
2. to express his joy and gratitude because of the good news which Timothy had brought (see chapter 3).
3. to shed further light upon the question which had arisen with respect to those who had fallen asleep (see 4:13-18) and the related question of the manner of Christ’s return (see 5:1-11).
4. and to give exactly such directions as could be expected from a missionary who is writing to men who have just recently been drawn out of the kingdom of darkness (idolatry, immorality, etc.) into the kingdom of light (see 4:1-12 & 5:12-28). Thus he stresses the fact that the new faith demands a complete break with the immoral conduct which characterizes heathendom (I Thes. 4:1-8), and he emphasizes the need of proper respect for the offices, of love and peace among all the brothers, of readiness to help those in distress, and of orderly conduct in the sight of the world (I Thes. 5:12-14).”
5. Read the final portion of Rev. Kortering’s Standard Bearer article:

 “DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

 One conclusion we are able to draw from the date of composition is that this letter is the earliest of Paul’s writing and also the earliest of the New Testament Scripture. Paul wrote this letter to the Thessalonians about 22 years after Christ died, arose, and ascended into heaven. Also we can determine that Paul was converted about fourteen years before he wrote the letter. This tells us that the content of this letter reflects the earliest view of the gospel current in the New Testament church. Prior to his conversion, Paul had been instructed in the best Jewish schools, and after his conversion the Holy Spirit gave him understanding in all things of the truth. We can get an inside picture of that gospel by careful study of this letter. Considering now that Paul was acting as pastor of this church at Thessalonica, two important lessons may be learned. First, in dealing with opposition to the gospel, he avoids being personal. Even when enemies insinuated that he was traveling for money, Paul does not lash out; rather he reminds them that in their persecution of him they please not God (II Thess. 2: 15).

 Second, it is good for one to read this letter and learn about pastoral care. Chapter two especially is full of warmth and love for the church. He carefully analyzes the important needs of the church and what difficulty they have and forthrightly answers them. In one word, spiritual honesty shines upon every page of this letter.”

**Food for thought:** “Great was Paul’s relief when Timothy returned. The report which he brought from the church at Thessalonica was so encouraging that the heart of the great missionary was filled with joy and thanksgiving…Not only did the arrival of Silas and Timothy and the information which they conveyed add zest to his preaching (Acts 18:5), but he also decided to express his feeling of gratitude in a letter to the Thessalonians. This was to be a letter of encouragement, the tenor of which would be: ‘You’re doing fine, continue to do so more and more (see I Thess. 4:1). Do not let persecutions get you down. These are necessary; also, they are to be expected, just as I told you when I was still with you.’ (see I Thess. 3:2-4).”

Wm. Hendrickson

**To take with you today:** I Thess. 4:1

**May our study today help us to abound more and more in our godly walk.**

 **May we, by grace, grow in our faith and strive to live before the face of God.**

**Day\_Seven\_**

**Overview of I Thessalonians**

Today we will begin an overview of the First Epistle to the Thess, guided by Rev. Hanko’s study guide.

**Acts 17 & I Thess. 1 - Study Guide pages 6&7**

**Read:** Acts 17: 1-15 I Thessalonians 1:1&2

**Do:** 1. Where did Paul begin his labors when he came to Thessalonica? (see Acts 17) (Q. 3. page 6)

1. Paul’s preaching in Thessalonica (#4 p. 6) What did Paul preach? (Q. 4.a., pg. 6)
2. Did some Jews believe and join with Paul and Silas? (Q.4.b., pg. 6)
3. Who also believed? (Q. 4.c., pg. 6)
4. How long did Paul minister the word in Thessalonica? (Q. 4d., pg. 7)
5. Why was Paul forced to leave Thessalonica? (Q. 5., Pg. 7)

**Food for thought:** “The inspired sources do not give us a complete and detailed survey of the contents of Paul’s message at Thessalonica. A few important matters are mentioned however. Thus we learned that he taught that the Messianic prophecies had attained their fulfillment in Jesus, he being the Christ; that he suffered, died, was raised from the dead, and will come again, all this according to the Scriptures; that by his work he delivered from the wrath to come all those who trust in him; that idol-worship is evil; and that believers, having been called into his glorious kingdom, should live a life of sanctification so as to please the God who saved them, and should be orderly in their daily conduct in the midst of a wicked world. On one point - namely, the Lord’s return and the events that will precede it - Paul had given somewhat detailed instruction while he was with the Thessalonians (II Thess. 2:1-5). It is not improbable that the teaching on other doctrinal themes had been just as thorough.” Wm. Hendrickson

**To take with you today:** I Thess. 2:11&12

**Unlike the Thessalonians, most of us have been blessed with the Gospel preaching from our youth.**

**May we, by His grace, strive to walk as the Thessalonians were called to walk: Worthy of God.**

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**Day\_Eight\_**

**Overview of I Thessalonians**

Today we will continue our overview of the first chapter of I Thessalonians

**I Thessalonians Chapter One - Study Guide page 7**

**Read:** I Thessalonians Chapter One

**Do:** 1. The congregation evidenced true faith and a sincere hope of eternal life (I Thess. 1:3).(#6 pg. 7)

 To what does Paul ascribe this tremendous change from unbelief and idolatry to faith in the living God? I Thess.1:4-6? (Q. 6.a. pg. 7)

1. Was there evidence of a common bond with the other churches? (Q. 6.b. pg. 7)

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**Day\_8\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, cont.**

**Food for thought:** “The church of Christ, and here particularly the church of the Thessalonians, brings forth fruits which become manifest as she assumes her place in the world. These fruits have their origin and source not in the church, considered by herself, but in God Who has chosen her in order that she might bring them forth. For this fact, and for these evidences of divine election the apostle and those with him cease not to give thanks…It should become apparent that the apostle is not speaking here of ‘your work’, that is, of the work of the church. He is not interested in the mere work of the church…Nor is the apostle interested in the diligence with which the church works….Rather, it is your work that is marked by faith!…He is not complimenting the members for their faithfulness, because they had been faithful in all that they did, though there is nothing wrong with acknowledging faithfulness on the part of members of the church and it may be entirely in place….Rather, he is speaking here of the work of faith. That is, the work which proceeds from faith, not from the members. It is the work which faith produces in and through those who possess it.”

 Rev. M. Schipper in the Standard Bearer article: Thanks for the Fruits of Election

**To take with you today:** I Thessalonians 1: 3&4

**May we examine our works today.**

**May they not be done out of selfishness or pride,**

 **but may it be clearly seen that they proceed from the faith that God works in us.**

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**Day Nine**

**Overview of I Thessalonians**

Today we continue our overview, looking at Chapter Two of I Thessalonians

**I Thessalonians 2 - Study Guide page 2**

**Read:** I Thessalonians Chapter Two

**Do:** 1. Labor among the Thessalonians Chapter 2:1-12 (#7 pg. 7)

 How had Paul and his co-workers labored among the Thessalonians? (Q. 7.a. Pg. 7)

1. Of what had Paul and his co-workers been accused (Chap. 2:3-6)? (Q. 7.b. pg. 7)

1. How was the Thessalonians’ whole-hearted reception of the gospel proof of Paul’s sincerity as a true servant of Jesus Christ (2:12-14)? (Q. 7.c. pg. 7)
2. What proof did the Thessalonians have that their faith was God’s work of grace in them? (2:14-20)?

 (Q. 7.d. pg. 8)

**Food for thought:** “The Thessalonians were not only willing to suffer but had actually experienced persecution. Hence, they had become imitators of other believers. The story is ever the same. It is repeated in every age and in every clime. For a true believer not to suffer persecution in some form is impossible….

Willingness to suffer such persecution reflects honor on the one who experiences it. It is as if Paul and his companions are saying: ‘The church in Jerusalem is generally thought of as an example for others. Now you, Thessalonians, by your willingness to suffer as the mother-church suffered, have shown that you are equal to her in honor.’…..The enemy is trying to undermine your faith, but your willingness to suffer persecution for the sake of Christ proves that your faith is genuine, and that the foe will not succeed.”

 Wm. Hendrikson

**To take with you today:** I Thessalonians 2:13&14

**“For a true believer not to suffer persecution in some form is impossible.”**

**May we be willing to live our faith today, no matter what afflictions and suffering come to us -**

**Counting it an honor to suffer for Christ.**

**Day\_Ten\_**

**Overview of I Thessalonians**

Today we will overview I Thessalonians Chapter Three through Chapter Four verse twelve.

**I Thessalonians 3:1 - 4:12 - Study Guide pages 8**

**Read:** I Thessalonians Chapter Three through Chapter four verse twelve

**Do:** 1. Why was Paul concerned about the congregation? What problems had arisen there (3:1-13)?

 (Q. 8. a. Pg. 8)

1. What does Paul teach them in regard to a holy walk (4:1-2)? (Q. 8.b. pg. 8.)
2. What does he say about brotherly love (4:9-12)? (Q. 8.c. pg. 8)

**Food for thought:** “The apostle requests (the asking is friendly and polite, yet it is no begging) and admonishes or urges ‘in the Lord Jesus’ - that is, by virtue of union with the Lord whom he represents and whose spirit inspires him - that they will overflow or excel or abound more and more in the business of conducting themselves properly, thus pleasing God. It is evident that what he desires so ardently is that the Thessalonians, in keeping God’s law, shall be prompted by gratitude for their deliverance. With wonderful tact he injects the parenthetical clause: ‘as in fact you are conducting yourselves.’ What the apostle really desires, therefore, is that the branches that bear fruit shall bear more fruit. That was necessary not only in view of the immaturity of these recent converts from paganism and of ‘the deficiencies of faith’ which had to be supplied in their particular care (3:10), but also in view of the more general consideration, namely, that the believer never attains to complete spiritual perfection in this life…..He (Paul) wanted his readers to have a healthy outlook upon life, so that in meditating upon events ‘on the other side’ (of death) they would not forget about their duties ‘on this side’. Nevertheless, he did not want them to separate these two. On the contrary, he desired that '‘on this side'’ they would arrange everything so that they would be ready for '‘the other side’. Or, stating it differently, he wanted them to set their house in order with a view to the earnestly awaited coming of the glorious Visitor from ‘the other side’, even the Lord Jesus. They must ever be ready to receive him.” Wm. Hendrikson

**To take with you today:** I Thessalonians 4:1

**May we seek to live godly lives today,**

**earnestly awaiting and preparing for Christ’s return.**

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**Day\_Eleven**

**Overview of I Thessalonians**

Today we will finish our overview of Chapter Four

**I Thessalonians 4:13-18 - Study Guide page 8**

**Read:** I Thessalonians 4:13-18

**Do:**

1. What problem had arisen concerning those who had died since coming to the faith (4:13-18)?

 (Q. 8.d. pg. 8)

1. Of what does Paul assure them? (Q. 8.e. pg. 8)
2. What is our calling as believers who await the coming of the Lord? (Q. 9. pg. 8.)

Continued….

**Day\_11\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, cont.**

**Food for thought:** “There was evidently concern in the hearts of the Thessalonian believers concerning what would happen to those who had died and had been buried. Was there hope also for their resurrection from he dead? The article of faith concerning the resurrection from the dead is not shared by the pagan, Gentile world. They do not have this hope. The resurrection from the dead is the hope of Israel…..Heathendom will not receive the teaching concerning the resurrection from the dead, as is evident from the reply of the unbelieving Athenians to Paul in the Areopagus. (Acts. 17:32). Paul is deeply concerned that the believers in Thessalonica may not live and die in the deep helplessness and hopelessness of ‘the others’ in the city! He would not have them ignorant of the teaching of the Scriptures and of the power of God. They must know that all things are possible with God, the Almighty God, Who raiseth the dead and calleth the things that be not as if they were. They must know that God has given this power unto the resurrected and glorified Christ. (John 5:21) In this Scripture passage, then, Paul is revealing some details concerning the resurrection in the last day, the Day of Christ’s Parousia. Blessed hope of the resurrection!” Rev. G. Lubbers in the Standard Bearer article: Exposition of I Thessalonians 4:13-18

**To take with you today:** I Thessalonians 3: 12&13

**May that blessed hope of the resurrection guide us today in our joys and in our trials.**

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**Day\_Twelve\_**

**Overview of I Thessalonians**

Today we will finish our overview of I Thessalonians

**I Thessalonians Chapter Five - Study Guide pages 8&9**

**Read:** I Thessalonians Chapter Five

**Do:** 1. What must be our attitude toward the officebearers in the church (5:12-13)? (Q. 10. Pg. 8)

1. Sum up Paul’s final admonitions. (Q. 11. Pg. 9)
2. To what does Paul repeatedly refer, particularly at the end of almost each chapter? (Q. 12. Pg. 9)

**Food for thought:** “There are three great truths concerning thanksgiving taught in this little verse.

(I Thess. 5:18) Thanksgiving is not to be limited to special occasions or to a special day. We are to be giving thanks in everything. Just as we are to rejoice evermore and to pray without ceasing, so we are to be giving thanks always. Thanksgiving in everything also means thanksgiving for everything. Nothing lies outside the scope of our thanksgiving. And precisely for this reason thanksgiving is possible only for believers. Giving thanks is a profoundly spiritual activity in faith. And, faith is God’s gift.”

 Prof. Robert Decker in the Standard Bearer article: Giving Thanks in Everything

**To take with you today:** I Thessalonians 5:18

**“Nothing lies outside the scope of our thanksgiving.”**

**May we make a concentrated effort throughout the day to thank God for all he sends into our lives -**

**because it is His Will!**

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**Day\_Thirteen\_**

**Summary of I Thessalonians**

Today we will review a summary of I Thessalonians by Wm. Hendrikson

 Continued…..

**Day\_13\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cont.**

**Read:** I Thessalonians Chapter Three

**Do:** Read the following quote from Wm. Hendrickson’s New Testament Commentary on I Thessalonians

 “Many Bible books, including several epistles, have definite themes. They cover a specific, well-defined subject. A little study reveals the nature of this central theme. This, however, is not true with respect to every Bible book… It stands to reason that, in view of the various purposes which the apostle (and his associates) has in mind in writing this letter, he comments on various subjects. Hence, in this case a rather general and comprehensive caption will have to take the place of a definite unified, material theme.

 Paul writes to the Thessalonians:

Chapters 1 and 2 or 1:1 - 3:5 Reminding them, in connection with his thanksgiving for them, how the

 gospel had come to Thessalonica, as a genuine work of God and not as a product of human deception.

Chapter 3 or 3:6-13 Informing them how he rejoices over Timothy’s report of their continued spiritual

 progress even in the midst of persecution

Chapter 4:13-5:11 Instructing them how Christ will come again, namely, with impartiality toward all

 believers, so that survivors will have no advantage over those who have fallen asleep; and with

 suddenness, so that people will be taken by surprise.

Chapter 4: 1-12 and 5:12-28 Exhorting them how they should conduct themselves, living sanctified lives

 with respect to all classes and at all times.

 “Thus, in general, there are four divisions: Thanksgiving and Defense, Expression of Joy, Instruction, and Exhortation, but these divisions are not rigid or clear-cut. Thoughts already expressed in one section recur in the next. Besides, the fourth division - Exhortation - comprises both 4:1-12 and 5: 12-28. Hence, the four division really become five:

 Thanksgiving and Defense

 Expression of Joy

 Exhortation

 Instruction

 Exhortation

**Food for thought:** And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. I Thessalonians 5: 23&24

 “In this passage the author points to the source of power for the believer. It is as if he wished to say, ‘On your own strength you cannot fulfil the precepts which I have just issued. You need God, the God of peace, a peace established through the cross, a peace which implies spiritual prosperity in the fullest sense. May this God sanctify you, that is, may he separate you from the life of sin and cause you to be dedicated to him through and through...that is, the whole of each of you, every part of each of you.

 A wonderful expression of assurance follows. The Thessalonians need have no fear. The One who calls will also certainly complete what he has begun with respect to them. He will surely sanctify and preserve them. He is faithful; to be trusted. What he promises he does.” Wm. Hendrikson

**To take with you today:** I Thessalonians 5:23&24

**We need have no fear. What God has begun in us He will complete.**

**He is faithful!**

**May we actively trust Him today to lead us and to give us grace to follow.**