

1 Thessalonians 1-2 study guide

This week we will be looking at 1 Thessalonians 1 & 2. Please read them over once or twice before starting to answer the questions. Pray and ask God to open your mind and your heart to the treasures you will find as you spend time studying His word.

Remember in order to end up with the proper application we must be willing to spend the time necessary to do careful observation and interpretation. Let's begin by looking at chapter one and asking the questions, who, what, where, when, how. When digging into the scripture we can think of it like we would a large puzzle. First we locate the corners, then all of the edge pieces form a structure that we can fill in. Your Bible may have an introduction before each book. It will be helpful to read this to become familiar with the people, the places and the time in which this letter was written.



1. **Corner #1** Who wrote this letter?



2. **Corner #2** Who was it written to?
Locate the place on a map so you are familiar with its location. Find out what you can, write some facts about the city and the people.
Look up the word "church" in the Greek and briefly tell who this is?



3. **Corner #3** What was the author's purpose for writing this letter?
This may take us awhile to find. It maybe plainly stated or we may have to draw the conclusion by what is repeated and talked about the most. You may want to come back and answer this question after you finish today. Read all four chapters in one sitting in order to take it as a whole.
Jot a few notes out to the side of the text then go back and put them together to see the purpose.



4. **Corner #4** When the letter was written?
What is the setting?

When you are studying the Bible this information is not always written in the chapter you will need to check an outside source. The introduction before the chapter in your Bible may have this information. If you have a Bible with some commentary it will help you. Look for clues in the text that give historical facts. (such as rulers and kings or some significant historical facts)

Let's dig in.

5. What is Paul's desire for them according to verse 1?

6. Paul says that he is praying for them continually.

What does he specifically mention when praying?

Read verse 3 and underline it first in the text then write out your answer.

- Their
- Their
- Their

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7. Even though we do not know these believers from Thessalonica personally, what can we say is true of them by what we have read here?
8. Paul reminds them of two important facts in verse 4.
 - They are
 - They are
9. Paul goes back to the time of their salvation and mentions some important details, vs. 6-8 List what you learned about their coming to Christ.

Think back to when you first came to Christ, what was your life like before your sins were forgiven, before you knew the Lord.

10. What idols did you serve?
11. When God revealed Himself to you did you receive the message with joy?
12. Since then has your walk with Christ be one that can be used as an example that others could follow?
If not, why not?
13. Are you living with an expectation that today could be the day of Christ's return?
Would that please you?
Be honest with yourself; is your to do list more important than your desire to see the Lord return?
There are times when we do get our priorities out of order and it is very helpful to stop and re-examine.

Now let's look at chapter 2

14. Verse 1-2 What was Paul enduring prior to his arrival in Thessalonica?
If you were with us for our study of Acts you will remember Acts 16; go back and jot down what you see happening to Paul and Silas in Acts 16:16-40.
15. Paul states that even though they endured great trials in Philippi with the help of God they still wanted to share the gospel in Thessalonica. Why would Paul say "with the help of God we dared to tell you this gospel"?
Read Acts 17 for insight into any further opposition they were facing.
16. Verse 3-6 Why did Paul say he came to share the good news in their area?
Who had entrusted him with this gospel?
17. How do you handle opposition?
Does your fear stop you?
Have you ask God for boldness?
Boldness is not recklessness; it is courage to continue in the face of actual or possible misfortune.
18. How does Paul say he shared with the people of Thessalonica,
 - vs.7
 - vs.8
 - vs.11
19. When you do share Christ with someone is it with this type of heart attitude?

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20. Do you believe the people of Thessalonica were responding to the love Paul was showing them in their care for him?
21. Who does Paul compare the believers in Thessalonica to in verse 14-16?
22. Go back and look at 1 Thess.1:5, 1Thess. 2:1,2,5,9,11, these verses state what the Thessalonians know. What does Paul say they know? (this is a repeated phrase and is important because Paul is reminding them of the truth they know)
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23. How do you think the Thessalonians felt when they got to this part of their letter from Paul? As they read vss.17-20. (no, it wasn't in verses like this for them)
24. Have you ever been apart from someone you love dearly? When you receive a letter and they tell you how they miss you and long to be with you, how does that make you feel?
25. Satan is still alive and busy in our world today. He is still hindering the believers that long to do the will of God. How can we be of help to those who are suffering today on the mission field, at home and abroad?
26. The apostle Paul is a wonderful example to us. What was his greatest joy?
27. What is yours?
Proverbs 11:30 *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.*
28. When was the last time you shared Christ with someone?
Why not just start talking about him and see if others show an interest?
Let's not sow our seed sparingly we have an everlasting supply; our time is the only thing that is limited.
We do not know when the Lord will return try to find someone to share your faith with this week.
29. In what way has the study of 1 Thessalonians 1-2 been applicable to your walk of faith?
- 2 Tim.3:16-17** All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
In what way has your time in the word affected your desire to walk in obedience? You may want to reread both chapters before answering this question. If not look back at 1 Thess. 1:3 could this describe you?