

**This is a beautiful chapter revealing the love of Christian friends for one another. Paul again reminds Thessalonians how he longs to come to visit them again and see how they are doing. Please read the chapter at least twice before beginning your study guide questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet of paper. Ask God to speak to your heart so that after your time in His word you will be made over into His image. Reading Acts 17:1-18:5 will help us get a clearer picture of these events.**

- 1. What are the cities Paul visited in Acts 17?  
1. Thessalonica,  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_**
- 2. How does Paul feel while he is in Athens? Acts 17:16**
- 3. Silas and Timothy were not with Paul in Athens, where had they remained?  
Acts 17:14**
- 4. Notice 1 Thess. 3:1; what is the concern on the heart of the apostle Paul?**

*Paul must have sent them word that he was concerned about the believers in Thessalonica and that he would like Timothy to go and check on them. He had instructed them earlier (Acts 17:15) to come to him quickly. But now his concern for these believers out weighs his own personal needs.*

- 5. Timothy is reunited with Paul in Acts 18:5; this is the same time period as 1 Thess. 3:6. What does he tell Paul?**

**Let's look at the city of Athens for a few minutes.**

- 6. What was predominant in this city?**
- 7. What is an idol?**
- 8. How did Paul approach these Athenians in his desire to share the gospel?  
Acts 17:17,22**
- 9. Do you look for ways to direct your conversations to spiritual things?**
- 10. What was the result of Paul's sharing with the Athenians? Acts 17:32-33**
- 11. What emotions fill your heart when you see people who are devoted to anything else but God?  
You might know someone who is dedicated**
  - 1. to their own personal beauty**
  - 2. to their business, they spend all their time, energy on it**

3. or some other good thing
4. perhaps they are caught up in the occult or the new age movement (which is really no new thing at all)

12. Now that you have done some research on the city of Athens, do you see why Timothy might have been hesitant to leave Paul alone there?

Paul himself was probably a bit hesitant to minister there alone.

What dangers could he be facing?

13. In 1 Thess. 3:2 how does Paul refer to Timothy?

14. What had Paul sent him to do in Thessalonica? Vs.5

15. What were the believers in Thessalonica probably enduring at this time?

16. Who does Paul acknowledge as the instigator of their trials?

17. Is he (this instigator) still active in the lives of those who love the Lord today?

Why is it important for us to know who is tempting us?

18. Temptation is not sin...Jesus was tempted in Matthew 4. Does knowing this help you? In what way?

19. How do you encourage other believers who are going through a trial or persecutions?

20. How are we instructed to respond in 1 Peter 4:7-10, 12-14?

**Highlight our instructions.**

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. **8** Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. **9** Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. **10** Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

**12** Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. **13** But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. **14** If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you

21. What good news did Timothy bring back?

22. What did this report do for Paul?

23. How can our attitude toward trials and temptations can be an encouragement to our spiritual leaders?

**24. Paul ends this chapter with a prayer? What specifically did he ask God to do in verses 11-13?**

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**25. Does this sound like a prayer you might pray for those you love?**

If not, it can serve as a wonderful example.

I recently read Chip Ingram's book Good to Great in God's Eyes. In it one of the things he says we should do in order to be great for God is, pray great prayers.

Great prayers are:

1. Deeply personal
2. Birthed in brokenness
3. Focused on God's agenda

**In what way has this chapter affected your walk of faith?**

**How are you different for your time in His word?**

**Why not stop and pray right now for someone God has placed on your heart.**