1 Thessalonians

LESSON # 2

Chapter 1:1-4

**Finish memorizing 1 Thess. 1:1-4**.

1. **As we have already noted, this letter has three authors: Paul, Silvanus (Silas), and Timothy. Look up the following Scriptures and jot down what you learn about these men.**

**Paul: Acts 22**, Galatians 1:11-17, Galatians 2:7-10

**Silvanus: Acts 15:32, 40-41**; 16:19-22; 2 Corinthians 1:19

**Timothy: Acts 16:1-3**; 1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19-22; 1 Timothy 1:18; **2 Timothy 1:5-7**

1. **To whom was this letter written (1:1)? Look up Acts 17:1-4 and see what you can learn about the composition of this church.**
2. ***Grace to you and peace* is a common salutation used by Paul in his letters, and by other Christian authors as well. What is grace? Define this word from a dictionary or Bible dictionary if you have one.**

1. **From the following verses, what role does grace play in the life of a believer?**

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

**Titus 2:11-14**

**Romans 12:6**

1 Corinthians 15:10

2 Thessalonians 2:16

1. In light of what you have learned, why do you think Paul places the concept of *grace* at the beginning of almost every letter? What does he want to impart to his audience, or to remind them of?
2. **What is the *peace* to which Paul refers (1:1)? Jot down what the following verses tell us about the Christian’s peace.**

**Romans 5:1**

**Philippians 4:7**

John 14:27

***“Blessed are the single-hearted, for they shall enjoy much peace. If you refuse to be hurried and pressed, if you stay your soul on God, nothing can keep you from that clearness of spirit which is life and peace.” Amy Carmichael***

1. **Verses 2-10 are essentially one long description of the apostles’ thanksgiving for the Thessalonians. Briefly, what is it about this church that causes them to give such energetic thanks?**
2. **The word *constantly* carries with it the idea of an incessant cough. When you apply that definition to Paul’s prayer life, what do you learn? How is your prayer life similar or dissimilar to this description?**
3. Look up the following passages and note what other things Paul is thankful for in his fellow believers:

Romans 1:8

1 Corinthians 1:4-8

Ephesians 1:15-16

2 Thess. 1:3-4

Philemon 1:4-5

1. **How would this practice change your relationship with those within the body of Christ? How should it change your relationship with people you struggle to love within the body of Christ?**
2. What three things does Paul thank God for in 1:3?
3. **What does Paul mean by the Thessalonians’ *work of faith* (1:3**)?
4. What specific works of faith are mentioned in this letter? 1:6-8 and 4:9-10?
5. **Next, Paul mentions the Thessalonians’ *labor of love* (1:3). What is meant by this?**
6. **What great work did God’s love prompt Him to do? See John 3:16; 1 John 4:10.**
7. **What should Calvary’s love prompt me to do? What does God ask of us in response**? See John 15:12-13; 1 John 3:16-18; 5:2-3.
8. **The next praiseworthy attribute mentioned is the Thessalonians’ *steadfast hope* (1:3). Hope is a major theme of this letter. In what were the Thessalonians hoping? You may want to look at 1:10; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23.**
9. **The phrase *steadfastness of hope* does not signify wishful thinking, or a longing for something that MAY happen, but a determined enduring that looks confidently forward to something that WILL happen. What do the following verses teach you about the kind of hope that the Bible describes?**

**Acts 24:15**

1. Corinthians 15:19

**Titus 2:13**

1Peter 1:13

**19.As you look over these 3 praiseworthy attributes, do you see similar fruit, which would be evidence of God’s work in your life? Are there specific areas where you are falling short? What will be your POA (plan of action)?**

**20.According to vs. 4, what is the ultimate source or cause of all these praiseworthy things in the church at Thessalonians?**

**21.When Paul mentions “His choice” of the Thessalonians (vs. 4), what does he mean? Look up the following verses and see what they teach us about God’s choice.**

**Romans 9:15-16**

**Ephesians 1:4-5**

Colossians 1:13

2 Thessalonians 2:13

1 Peter 1:1-2

**22.Paul reminds the Thessalonians that they were chosen as a means of encouraging them. How does knowing that you were chosen by God encourage and strengthen you? Why is it important that as a Christian we understand this truth?**