

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 06 March	1Thessalonians 1:1-10	Commended
2) 13 March	1Thessalonians 2:1-12	Shared
3) 20 March	1Thessalonians 2:13-20	Response Required
4) 27 March	1Thessalonians 3:1-13	Encouraged
5) 03 April	1Thessalonians 4:1-12	Demonstrated
6) 10 April	1Thessalonians 4:13-18	Promised
7) 17 April	Matthew 28	Risen
8) 24 April	1Thessalonians 5:1-11	Returning
9) 01 May	1Thessalonians 5:12-28	Living
10) 08 May	2Thessalonians 1:1-12	Enduring
11) 15 May	2Thessalonians 2:1-12	Observing
12) 22 May	2Thessalonians 2:13-17	Praying
13) 29 May	2Thessalonians 3:1-18	Waiting

INTRODUCTION

- Paul started the Thessalonian church on his 2nd of 3 missionary journeys. Paul's 2nd missionary journey began with selecting Silas and Timothy to go with him (Acts 17).
 - Next, Paul, through a vision, was directed away from Asia and sent to Macedonia, and while in Thyatira Paul & Silas ended up in jail
 - From there, they traveled to Thessalonica – and the fun begins
 - Paul is chased out of Thessalonica after about a month
 - Paul left Timothy & Silas there while he headed for Berea
 - Timothy and Silas met up with Paul in Athens, and Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to check on them
 - Timothy found Paul in Corinth and reported on his findings
 - Paul then wrote 1Thessalonians for Timothy to take to them
 - 1Thessalonians was written to express Paul's delight at the faithfulness of these persecuted believers
 - 2Thessalonians was written to correct some false doctrine regarding the 2nd coming of Christ.
- The Rapture concept is addressed in 1Thes 4:13-18, but every chapter in 1Thes ends with a reference to the 2nd coming of Christ
- 1st & 2nd Thes were among the first NT artifacts written (A.D. 50/51)
- 1Thes explains why deceased believers will not miss the Rapture
- 2Thes explains why believers will not be involved in the Tribulation

Passage	Comments
1Thes 1:1-4	<p>Evidence of salvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. The believers in Thessalonica were noted to be "in" God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul does not emphasize his Apostolic authority in this letter since there was no need to correct the Thessalonians to change any bad behavior v2. Paul mentioned Thessalonians "always" in his prayers. Do we "always" pray for fellow Christians? v3. Thessalonians were noted for the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work of Faith Labor of Love Patience/Endurance of Hope <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can these traits be seen in us or in our church? What is really meant by these cliches? <p>Consideration #1. Every time we are obedient to God's word (e.g., 'be kind to one another', 'speak the truth in love', 'forgive as we are forgiven', etc.) we are working and living and loving by faith. We may not see immediate or any results this side of Glory, but when we continually obey, we exhibit godly patience and endurance of hope.</p> <p>Consideration #2. Can we expect God to work through our obedience and even bless our efforts? ABSOLUTELY. That is living hopefully. But it takes time for people and situations to change favorably. God wants willing worshippers, not mindless robots.</p>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If these traits (Faith, Hope, & Love,) are not evident in us or in our church, what would need to change for those traits to be quite noticeable by others? v4. God chose them! Why? To be saved! ... 2Thes 2:13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why didn't God choose the 2nd thief on the cross, or Judas who betrayed Him, or so many others who have or will end up in Hell? Recall what Jesus told the Hell-bound Pharisees, He was willing to give them eternal life, but they were not willing to choose or come to Him..... John 5:40
1:5-6	<p>Experience of Salvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v5. What does it mean for the gospel to come in power and in the Holy Spirit with full conviction? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider this. God was still working supernatural miracles at this time to establish the GospelActs 5:12; Rom 15:19; 1Cor 14:39; Gal 3:5; 1Thes 5:20 v6. Thessalonians were imitators of Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are we of a caliber that people want to imitate us? Thessalonians also received the gospel under duress and accepted it with "joy of the Holy Spirit"
1:7-10	<p>Example for Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v7. Thessalonians (and us) need to migrate from being imitators to being imitated v8. Thessalonians become a light on a hilltop vv9-10. Thessalonians were noted for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Turned away from idols Turned to worship a living and true God Waiting/Serving till Christ returns

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Make it a goal to have a testimony for others to imitate

SUPPORTING PASSAGES

2Thes 2:13. From the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

- NEXT WEEK: 1Thes 2:1-12.** How would you like to work long hours during the day, then come home to take care of family, and then work on some church ministry? OH, some of you already do! Paul was no stranger to grueling days either.

