

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

- How would you like to work long hours during the day, then come home to take care of the family, and also go out to work church ministry [OH! Some of you already do!]
- Paul was no stranger to grueling days either
 - ♦ He spent his days working as a tent maker to support himself and others who were with him (Timothy, Silas, Aquila, Priscilla, Barnabas, Mark, and possibly others)
 - ♦ Then he would spend the evenings sharing the Gospel in the Synagogue or marketplace. Remember, they did not have weekends to rest. The Roman/Greek culture was accustomed to working 7-day work weeks.
 - ♦ Then he would also make time for individual discipleship
 - ♦ If Paul had a wife and kids it would be interesting to see how he would have successfully handle a family. But Peter and other Apostles were married and successfully carried on God's work.
- Why doesn't God make his Saints, especially His A-Team, independently wealthy so they can be about the Lord's work without having to be strapped with working to pay the bills?

Passage	Comments
1Thes 2:1-4	<p>Bold Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. His time spent in Thessalonica was not in vain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How can we make sure our time spent with family & friends is fruitful? • PLAN your words, thoughts, and actions • v2. Suffering and mistreatment led to boldness • In Philippi, Paul and Silas were flogged and imprisoned for sharing the Gospel.....Acts 16:22-24 • v3. Their doctrines were open to all to examine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ WARNING. There is a trend in the SBC for Calvinist preachers to cloak their doctrine when assuming a new pastorate to eventually and hopefully convert (or as some say subvert) a non-Calvinist church to Calvinism as a church typically warms up to them. ♦ This was not Paul's approach. He was very transparent. In fact, Paul "rejected underhanded methods and didn't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God" 2Cor 4:2 [NLT] • v4. The goal was not to win converts as much as it was to please God by obeying His command to share the Gospel freely to all who would listen. Remember, we are beggars showing other beggars where the bread is
2:5-8	<p>Caring Teachers / The Perfect Mother</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. No flattery speeches, no hidden motives or agendas to gain wealth – just the unvarnished truth • v6. The Apostles had the right to be supported by the church 1Cor 9:3-14; 2Cor 11:7-11 • vv7-8. Our approach was as a doting mother – Our focus was for your benefit & our love for you made it easy for us to share the Gospel and our lives with you Do we seek the good of the many (1Cor 10:33)?

Passage	Comments
2:9-12	<p>Devout Teachers / The Perfect Father</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. Paul was a bi-vocational preacher where he worked a night job to support his primary ministry. In fact, he worked hard to support himself and others. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul worked as a tent maker Acts 18:1-3 ♦ Recall what Paul told the Ephesian Elders – In similar manner, they too were to work hard to support themselves & those weaker.... Acts 20:34-35 • v10. Paul essentially said to examine his walk. How transparent should we be? • v11. How should we exhort, encourage, implore others to live godly lives? • v12. Ultimate goal → To be called worthy of our God

Bi-Vocational Tentmakers

- Paul was a "tent maker." It is possible, tent, in this case, does not equate to a camping tent but to a Jewish prayer shawl that was used to cover the head of a person when they prayed. Since Paul attended a Levitical school, this would have been a suitable trade for him to learn.
 - ♦ Jewish men wore this garment called a, "Talith", aka Jewish Prayer-Shawl, all the time, not just at prayer. "Talith" contains two Hebrew words; TAL meaning tent and ITH meaning little. Thus, each man had his own "Little Tent"
 - ♦ [Mat 6:6](#) – "Enter into your prayer closet" – for the Jew this occurred when the shawl was pulled over their head
- **BUT WAIT!** If this was God's work, why wasn't God providing for their financial needs as He promised ([Mat 6:33](#))? If God sends, doesn't He provide? If God calls, doesn't He equip?
 - ♦ **Consider this.** Those are nice clichés, but not 100% biblical. God promised Israel He would fight and remove their enemies from their Land, but Israel still had to suit up and go to war and kill or be killed [Deut 20:4-7](#)
 - ♦ **IOW**, some might have to sacrifice and work bi-vocationally till an appointed time when God eventually bestows compassion and grace to His servants by answering their prayers and meeting their needs [Ps 102:13, 17](#)



CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- When serving the Lord expect hard physical, mental, and emotional work to be involved.

NEXT WEEK: 1Thes 2:13-20. Paul was the spiritual father to many churches – and like a loving, caring parent he didn't want to be away from them. But he was often chased away and forced to leave his "kids" behind to fend for themselves. And sometimes, his responsibilities of caring for other churches prevented him from going back to see how his older "kids" were doing. What can a parent do?



Nothing is impossible with God, but He doesn't expect us to lean on a shovel and wait for a hole to magically appear.