

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 was the spiritual father to many churches – and like a loving, caring parent he did not want to be away from them
 - ♦ But he was often chased away and forced to leave his “kids” behind to fend for themselves
 - ♦ Sometimes his responsibilities caring for other churches prevented him from going back to see how his older “kids” were doing
- What can a parent do? Write love letters to his spiritual kids?
 - ♦ Send others in his place to check on them (i.e., Timothy)?
 - ♦ Thank God for His goodness and pray continuously for their wellbeing and for a reunion?..... Yes, to All the Above

Passage	Comments
1Thes 2:13-16	<p>Receptive Learners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v13a. Paul constantly thanked God for the faithful response of the Thessalonian’s to the Gospel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Do we thank God constantly for others? ♦ Can we do better at this? What does it accomplish? ♦ Consider This: Constantly giving thanks for God’s goodness and for positive behavior seen in others helps keep things in proper perspective. Life is not just about us. • v13b. God’s word performs a work in believers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How does God’s word work in believers? • vv14. Imitators again, this time of the persecuted churches in Judea/Israel – enduring under persecution by fellow countrymen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What churches can we imitate or learn from? Are we a church others can imitate or learn from? Are we stagnate or a growing church with abundant fruit? ♦ Are there people we can imitate or learn from? Can others imitate or learn from us? ♦ If we are not suitable to imitate (either individually or as a church), what do we need to change? • vv15-16. Basically, the wicked seal their own fate. Even the Apostle Paul was once a Church Persecutor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Knowing that God can change the hardest of sinners, how should we respond to those who persecute us, give us a hard way to go, tease us, or even avoid us? Phil 4:5; Titus 3:2
How Does God’s Word Work in Our Lives?	<p>Here are a few considerations: Every time we obey God’s word, more of our prayers get answered (Prov 28:9), we become good examples to live by (Matt 5:13-18), we become holy as God is holy (1Peter 1:15-16), we have no reason to fear authority and we position ourselves for praise from men (Rom 13:1-4) and more blessings from God (Jer 5:25), we show our love for God and respect for His institutions and for the lives of others (1Peter 2:13-14, 17), we bear the good fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-25), and we reap untold rewards (Rev 22:12)</p>

Passage	Comments
2:17-18	<p>Hindered By Satan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul says Satan hindered him from spending more time with the Thessalonians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This was evident in being chased out of town by the Jews (God allows such hindrances)..... Acts 17:1-10 ♦ Other hindrances or changes to Paul’s agenda were instigated by God (Act 16:6-7); and by Paul’s other responsibilities (Rom 1:13; 15:22) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What kind of hindrances happen in our lives? ♦ How should we cope when hit by hindrances? ♦ We should seek discernment whether to fight the hindrance, flee from it, or patiently endure it
Can Satan Really Hinder God’s Work?	<p>Absolutely!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul acknowledged he was hindered by Satan, and nowhere do we have any indications Paul or anyone in his entourage were in a state of sin or spiritual immaturity, resulting in godly discipline. • Also realize this – God frequently hides things from Satan so Satan could not thwart God’s plans for His people more than what he has already done (e.g., the 1st coming of Christ; the planned Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ; the 2nd coming Christ; the Church Age, and Rapture of the Lord’s Church) • Recall Satan orchestrated the crucifixion of our Lord and even Peter’s denial of Him. If Satan had foresight of our Lord’s Resurrection and its impact, he would have done everything to prevent Jesus’ Crucifixion • Satan may hinder, but that does not prevent God from accomplishing His will. • Satan’s hindrances just add complexity to our lives • Even when we prefer sleep to praying, Satan wins • Fortunately, God is so sovereign He can accomplish His will with countless changing variables to deal with
2:19-20	<p>How to Bring Joy and a Crown of Rejoicing (KJV) Boasting (ESV) Exultation (NASB) to Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul received “glory and joy” from the Thessalonians. How do others give us “glory and joy”? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider how children bring honor to their parents through godly behavior.. Ps 127:3-5; Pro 15:20; 17:6 ♦ In similar fashion, our spiritual children can also bring us much joy and fruit to our credit Phil 4:17 • What behavior can we exhibit to bring glory & joy to our earthly and/or spiritual parents and mentors? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Spiritual fruit (Love, joy, peace, patience, etc.) ♦ Gentle spirit and godly grandchildren Other traits?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Never leave anything for granted. Be diligent to pray continuously, and “constantly” give thanks to God for His goodness and for the good received from others

NEXT WEEK. 1Thes 3. If we are GOOD Christians now, how do we become GREAT Christians later – and how long does it take?

