

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

- If we are GOOD Christians now, how do we become GREAT Christians later?

Passage	Comments
1Thes 3:1-5	<p>Sending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most think Timothy was Paul's young, inexperienced, timid, and introverted side-kick who frequently got sick. He may have had some issues (no one is perfect), but by the time he was being sent out by Paul, he was fully capable of positively impacting troubled churches. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Sometimes, Timothy was paired with others (Silas in Acts 17 & 18; Erastus in Acts 19:22; and with Paul), so he worked with and learned from the best ♦ Other times Timothy was sent out solo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corinth. Recall Timothy had to stress Paul's teachings to this immature and divisive church • Thessalonica. Timothy was sent to encourage this church during a time of persecution • vv1,2. "...when we could endure it no longer..." Concern for loved ones is a great motivator to take action. In this case, Timothy was sent to check on the young Thessalonian church and encourage them. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Could we do what Timothy did? ♦ What would it take to turn us into a Timothy? • vv3-5. Afflictions and persecutions should not be a big concern for believers, because we know it's coming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The concern Paul had was if the Thessalonians were staying true under the duress ♦ Paul knew firsthand how Satan could hinder and afflict God's people (with God's approval, of course) ♦ If the Apostle Paul suffered under Satan's attacks, he had valid concern for these young, inexperienced believers. Satan could eat them for breakfast. ♦ The Thessalonians had one thing in their favor – like Timothy, they were thoroughly trained by Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we thoroughly training/discipling believers? • Is knowledge all we need to be successful? • Knowledge is the beginning, but we also need to be shown HOW to live and even suffer for Christ ♦ Likewise, if we are grounded in God's word, we too can withstand the "wiles of the devil" Eph 6:11-12
3:6-9	<p>Thanksgiving</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v8. "for now we live if you stand fast" – SAY WHAT? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider the NLT rendition – "It gives us new life, knowing you remain strong in the Lord" ♦ In other words, Paul was pumped up after hearing such good news about his spiritual children • v9. Such good news sure makes it easy to give praise and thanks to God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Pr 25:25 Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land. That's how Paul welcomed the news Timothy brought back to him

Passage	Comments
BUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What if Timothy brought back bad news? • What if the church disbanded, fell apart? • What if all believers were killed off or imprisoned? • What would be Paul's new game plan? • Could or should Paul still render thanks to God?
3:10-13	<p>Praying</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul prays continuously, night & day, for 5 things: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That he might see their face again <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When and for how long? 2. That he may complete what is lacking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What was lacking with the Thessalonians? - What is lacking with us or with our church? 3. That God may give him traveling mercy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What would this look like? 4. That God may cause them to increase in love <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How and what would this look like? 5. That God may establish them blameless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How and what would this look like? • Were Paul's prayers answered? Which ones were or were not answered? How long did it take to get each prayer answered? • What else should we continuously pray for? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cash? <input type="checkbox"/> Peace? <input type="checkbox"/> Comfort? <input type="checkbox"/> Rest? <input type="checkbox"/> Other?

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- To migrate from a GOOD Christian to a GREAT Christian involves two core ingredients as seen here and in Col 1:10
 1. Increased Knowledge of God (Head Knowledge); and
 2. Bearing fruit in every good work (Exercise of Head Knowledge)
- By the end of this study, we will see that the Thessalonians grew from GOOD Christians to GREAT Christians; from a church that needed to hear more about God and how to hang tough to a church that began taking their faith out to the world
- What would it take to migrate us from GOOD to GREAT Christians?
 - More Prayer? More Persecution? More TV? Other?

NEXT WEEK: 1Thes 4:1-12. Warnings against sexual impurity; the call for increasing love for the brethren; and we should seek to lead a quiet life – all while considering what to believe about the end times.

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



What a different social media world it would be...