

Study Questions

For New Testament Books of the Bible

1 Thessalonians

Chapter 1

1. Who was the author of 1 Thessalonians? When was this letter written? Where was the author writing from and to whom was this letter written? Why did the author write this letter?
2. Which of his co-workers were with him when Paul wrote this letter?
3. Who was Silas? Profile him.
4. **BIBLE SEARCH:** During which missionary journey did Paul establish the church at Thessalonica? Which scripture describes in detail Paul's establishment of the church in Thessalonica and the events that happened at that time?
5. **GEOGRAPHY:** In what country or area was the city of Thessalonica located during Paul's time? Does the city still exist? If so, in which country and exactly where is the city located today?
6. **REFLECTION:** As we read Paul's opening statement to the Thessalonians (v. 2, 3) what lessons can all Christians learn from Paul's descriptions of their behavior?
7. What did Paul mean in verse 5, when he said, "For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power.... ." What power was Paul referring to?
8. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Paul said the truth of the Good News was also to be found in the way Paul, Timothy and Silas lived their lives. Does your life confirm or contradict what you profess to believe? Explain.

1 Thessalonians Chapter 2

1. What does Paul mean when he writes to the church at Thessalonica, “You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters that our visit to you was not a failure,” (v. 1)
2. What example did Paul use to demonstrate that he was “not preaching with any deceit or impure purposes or trickery” (v. 3) when he taught the Thessalonians?
3. **DICTIONARY SEARCH:** In verse 4, Paul tells the Thessalonians that he is a messenger approved by God (NLT). Give as many synonyms as you can find for the word “messenger.”
4. **REFLECTION:** In verse 4, Paul also states his purpose in speaking to the Thessalonians (NLT). What lesson can we learn from Paul’s purpose?
5. What does Paul claim he has never sought from the Thessalonians, or from anyone else? (v.6)
6. What trait did Paul say he valued and employed when teaching and dealing with the Thessalonians? (v.7)
7. **REFLECTION:** Why did Paul not want to be a burden on the Thessalonians? (v.9-10)
8. How does Paul say the Thessalonians accepted the message of the Gospel? (v.13)
9. Paul charges some non-Christian Jews with violently opposing the spread of the Gospel (v. 15, 16). Why were so many Jews opposed to Christianity?
10. **REFLECTION:** What do you think Paul meant when he said Satan prevented him from returning to Thessalonica again and again? (v.18)

1 Thessalonians Chapter 3

1. Why does Paul say he sent Timothy to visit the church at Thessalonica? (v. 1-3)
2. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Paul warns that all Christians experience trouble (v.3, 4). Why do you think God allows believers to experience trials and tribulations even after they've become Christ-followers?
3. Who or what was Paul referring to when he told the Thessalonians that he was afraid the tempter might have gotten the best of them? (v.5)
4. What did Timothy find at Thessalonica? What news concerning the Thessalonians did Timothy report back to Paul? (v. 6, 7)
5. **REFLECTION:** What lesson about faith can we infer from Paul's statements in verses 7-9?
6. Why was Paul so filled with joy in verse 9?
7. In verse 11, Paul told the Thessalonians that he prayed earnestly night and day to see them again. Did Paul ever return to Thessalonica? If so, when?
8. Which day or time is Paul referring to in the last verse (13) of this chapter?

1 Thessalonians Chapter 4

1. **REFLECTION:** In verses 1-8, Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to, “.....keep clear of all sexual sin (v.3, NLT).” Why does Paul want us to live Holy lives and avoid sexual immorality? List as many negative consequences as you can think of associated with having sex outside of marriage.
2. In verse 6, what does Paul say God does to those individuals who engage in sexual sin?
3. **GEOGRAPHY:** Paul mentions Macedonia in verse 10. On which continent was ancient Macedonia located? Does Macedonia still exist today? If so, in which country is it located?
4. Paul told the Thessalonians to live a quiet life, mind their own business and work with their hands (v.11). Why did Paul tell them to do that?
5. Many in the church at Thessalonica wondered why many of their fellow believers had died and wanted to know what would happen to those that died. How did Paul respond to their questions? (v.13)
6. **REFLECTION:** What do you think Paul meant when he told the Thessalonians, “I can tell you this directly from the Lord.” (v.15)
7. At the Second Coming, who will meet Christ first, the living or the dead? (v.15)
8. Ignoring those events that lead up to the Second Coming and based on verse 15 – 18 of this chapter..... list those events in the order they occur which Paul tells us will happen at the moment of Christ’s return.

1 Thessalonians Chapter 5

1. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** In verses 1, Paul tells the Thessalonians that no one knows how and when the Lord will return. Where else in scripture are we told that no one knows the hour when Jesus will return?
2. Paul mentions the “Day of the Lord” in verse 2. What is the, “Day of the Lord?”
3. **REFLECTION:** When teaching the Gospel, why do you think Paul often used battle metaphors (see verse 8 as well as Ephesians 6:14, for example)?
4. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians to honor their leaders in the Lord’s work (v.12). To whom was Paul referring?
5. How does Paul tell the Thessalonians and all believers everywhere (then and now) to treat the lazy, the timid and the weak? (v.14)
6. **BIBLE SEARCH:** List as many Bible verses as you can find that tell us to never repay evil with evil?
7. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** In verses 16-18, Paul tells us to be joyful, keep on praying and to be thankful in all our circumstances. Have you incorporated joyfulness and thankfulness as well as prayer into your life during times of personal tragedy? If so, share your experiences. If not, reflect on how you might?
8. Most people understand the need for prayer during times of personal tragedy, but why should we also be joyful and thankful during troubled times?
9. What does Paul mean when he tells us not to stifle (or quench) the Holy Spirit? (v.19)
10. Why did Paul command the Thessalonians to read this letter publicly? (v.27)