

I & II THESSALONIANS AND PHILIPPIANS

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SYLLABUS

<i>#</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Lesson Title</i>
1	2012-04-04	I Thessalonians 1	Remembrance and Examples
2	2012-04-11	I Thessalonians 2	Reinforcing the Persecuted
3	2012-04-18	I Thessalonians 3	Mutual Encouragement
4	2012-04-25	I Thessalonians 4	Abound More and More
5	2012-05-02	I Thessalonians 5	Watch and Be Sober
6	2012-05-09	II Thessalonians 1	
7	2012-05-16	II Thessalonians 2	
8	2012-05-23	II Thessalonians 3	
9	2012-05-30	Philippians 1	
10	2012-06-06	Philippians 2	
11	2012-06-13	Philippians 3	
12	2012-06-20	Philippians 4	
13	2012-06-27	Review	Make-up and Review

OUTLINE OF I THESSALONIANS

- I. Salutation (1:1).
- II. Section One: Comfort and Encouragement to Persevere in Adversity (Chapters 1-3):
 - A. Remembrance: The Thessalonians' conversion was worth remembering, and they should be encouraged by it, as was Paul (1:2-10).
 - i. Paul remembered them and the proof of their conversion in his prayers (1:2-4).
 - ii. Their conversion amidst persecution provided a remarkable example that was broadcast along with their support of the gospel (1:5-10).
 - iii. Paul's persecution and humble, selfless preaching testified to his integrity (2:1-12).
 - iv. In spite of persecution, they accepted Paul's message as the word of God, not men (2:13-16).
 - B. Comfort: The Thessalonians' spiritual well-being and persistence was once a cause of great concern to Paul, but it is now a source of great strength and comfort (2:17-3:13).
 - i. Paul's concern and joy was the Thessalonians, despite his absence (2:17-20).
 - ii. Timothy was sent to instruct and encourage the Thessalonians (3:1-5).
 - iii. Timothy brought an encouraging report of the Thessalonians' (3:6-8).
 - iv. Paul personally drew strength from their success and prayed for their further spiritual growth and maturity (3:9-13).
- III. Section Two: Doctrinal Explanations and Moral Admonitions (Chapters 4-5):
 - A. General encouragement, "*abound more and more*" (4:1-2).
 - B. Maintain sexual purity and holiness (4:3-8).
 - C. Abound in love toward brethren and quiet, diligent labor (4:9-12).
 - D. Take comfort in knowing the certainty of Jesus' audible return and the saints' resurrection (4:13-18).
 - E. Be always working, comforted, and prepared for the Lord's return, which will occur at an unknowable time (5:1-11).
 - F. Distinguish and treat others based on their works and their needed good (5:12-15).
 - G. Cling to God's revelation and reject that which is not (5:16-22).
- IV. Closing and Benediction (5:23-28).

LESSON 1 – REMEMBRANCE AND EXAMPLES

I Thessalonians 1:1-10

Brief History and Background

On Paul's second missionary journey, in about 51-52 AD, Paul travelled to Macedonia, after receiving a vision (**Acts 16:1-11**). There in Philippi, Lydia, her household, the Philippian jailer, and his household were converted (**Acts 16:12-34**). After being wrongfully punished and imprisoned, Paul and Silas were released and eventually travelled from Philippi to Thessalonica (**Acts 16:35-17:1**). After a short time preaching there with some success, the Jews stirred up a mob and began a persecution against the infant Thessalonian Christians, which resulted in Paul and Silas having to leave Thessalonica immediately (**Acts 17:1-10**). These persecuting Jews were so intent on stopping Paul's preaching that they journeyed to Berea to stir up a crowd there also (**Acts 17:10-14**). From Berea, Paul travelled to Athens (**Acts 17:15-34**), and from Athens, Paul travelled to Corinth, where Silas and Timothy rejoined him (**Acts 18:1-5**). While in Corinth, in about 51-52 AD, Paul wrote this first epistle to the Thessalonians.

Themes

Paul's first epistle to the Thessalonians can be divided into 2 sections. Given the short time that Paul was able to spend with the newly converted Thessalonians, the first section of the epistle (chapters 1-3) is understandably encouraging, reinforcing, and personal. They are admonished to cling to their faith in the face of adversity and persecution, which had undoubtedly continued given their locale. The second section (chapters 4-5) deals with questions and issues on various topics, including holiness, sexual purity, dead saints, the end of the world, and various other applications. Concern for the dead in Christ receives the most attention in this second section of the epistle, and it is a subtle theme throughout.

Bible Reading With Questions – Also Read Acts 16-17 for background:

Greeting and Remembrance – I Thessalonians 1:1-5

1. How and why did Paul remember the Thessalonians? Do we have the same impact?
2. How did Paul know that the Thessalonians were elected by God? Can the same be said of us?
3. What benefit and purpose would have been accomplished by Paul recounting how the gospel came to them? How can we benefit from this same technique?

A City Set on a Hill – I Thessalonians 1:6-10

4. What 3 examples are mentioned in verses 6-7? Please describe how they are connected.
5. What 2 messages or statements were broadcasted by the Thessalonians? Applications to us?
6. What was the religious background of the Thessalonians? What does this suggest about their ethnic background? Were these Thessalonians most likely Gentiles or Jews?