

# A Study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians

# 1 Thessalonians – Chapter 1

- Verse 1

“Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Why are three names listed in this verse?
- Is this letter written to Christians or non-Christians?
- What is grace?
- What is peace?
- Why does Paul wish these two things on the readers?

# 1 Thessalonians – Chapter 1

- Verse 2: We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,
  - Is it proper to thank God for other Christians?
  - How often did Paul give thanks to God for these folks?
  - Why would Paul tell them he thanks God and constantly prays about them?
  - What effect would knowing the apostle Paul is constantly praying about you have on you?

# 1 Thessalonians – Chapter 1

Verse 3: remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

- Faith and work -- why are they mentioned together here?
- What is a labor of love?
- What does steadfastness mean?
  - In this context, what are they to have steadfastness of?
  - In who?
  - Explain what steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ means

# 1 Thessalonians – Chapter 1

- Verse 4: knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.
  - Does God individually love Christians?
  - Does God love groups of Christians?
  - If you really believe God loves you, what does that make you want to do?
  - In what way has God chosen the readers of this letter?
    - Did they have a choice in whether to obey God?
    - Were they predestined before they were born?

# 1 Thessalonians – Chapter 1

- Verse 5: For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.
  - What does “gospel” mean in a general sense?
    - How about in the Biblical sense?
  - What does “in word” mean here?
  - In power?
  - In Holy Spirit?

# 1 Thessalonians – Chapter 1

- Verse 5: For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.
  - How would Paul and others demonstrate “full conviction”?
    - What power does it bring when we are fully convicted?
    - Is this the same as “fully committed”?
    - Are most great things in life accomplished by being partially committed or by going 100% in?
  - Why would the apostle Paul have to “prove” himself?
    - How could he?
    - What did he and the others prove to the readers?

# 1 Thessalonians – Chapter 1

- Verse 6: And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,
  - Is it ok to “model” or “imitate” others?
    - What are some examples in the Bible of this?
    - Think older men or older women are to do what for the younger ones?
    - Are we to imitate Christ?
    - What benefits do we get when we imitate others who are living right?
  - Why does Paul say they received the word in much affliction?



# 1 Thessalonians – Chapter 1

- Verse 7: so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.
  - Should we ever look at other Christians for an example?
  - How were they examples?
  - What are some examples in how we might look at other Christians' examples?

# 1 Thessalonians – Chapter 1

- Verse 8: For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.
  - What does Paul mean about “the word of the Lord sounded forth”?
  - How could their “faith” go forth, especially “everywhere”?
  - Why does Paul feel the need to say he won’t say anything?