



The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

Bible Course Acts to Revelation Lesson 39

Name: _____

I Thessalonians

Thessalonica was a prominent seaport and capital city of the Roman province of Macedonia, during Paul's time. Paul preached in the synagogue of Thessalonica during his 2nd missionary journey. But the Jews became jealous of Paul's success, and organized a mob to oppose the Christian missionary. As a result, Paul and Silas hurriedly left that city. Paul commends this church for its steadfastness in the faith, in the midst of trial and affliction. The theme of the "coming of the Lord" occurs throughout this epistle, but especially in chapters 4 and 5. Paul speaks highly of this church, as he remembers the faith, hope, and love of its members. The Holy Spirit came with power and in much assurance, for which Paul was grateful. This epistle was written by Paul in A.D. 51 from Athens as a response to the good report about this church, which he had heard from Timothy.

Introduction

1. On which missionary journey was the church at Thessalonica established?

2. How long did Paul preach in the Jewish synagogue before trouble arose? (Acts 17:2) _____
3. While at Athens, whom did Paul send back to Thessalonica? (I Th. 3:1-2)

4. When Paul left Athens, where did he go? (Acts 18:1) _____
5. Who arrived later? (Acts 18:5) _____
6. From where and when did Paul write 1st Thessalonians?

7. What was the occasion for writing this book? _____
8. What is the theme or purpose? _____

*Read
I Thessalonians 1*

A lighthouse is visible to ships for a long distance, particularly when it is dark. It flashes a warning message and guides to a safe harbor. Similarly, a church should be a signal to its community – warning of dangers and guiding to safety. Read I Thessalonians

1 to see how Paul commends this group as an exemplary church.

9. Why was this church a cause for thanksgiving?

- a. Remembering without ceasing your _____ of _____
- b. And _____ of _____,
- c. And _____ of _____ in our _____
- d. (their _____(v. 4) was seen in the fruits of their life.)

10. What was the effect of the gospel in this church (v. 5-8)? _____

11. What were the results of the Thessalonians' faith in their area (v. 8-10)? _____

Read
1 Thessalonians 2-3

Paul recalls his time with the Thessalonians and in the process gives an example of a model minister.

12. What excuses might Paul have used to not preach to the Thessalonians (v. 1-2)? _____

13. What attitudes enabled Paul to continue preaching (made him "bold") despite opposition (v. 3-6)? _____

14. How could we apply this same lesson to our own lives? _____

15. Paul uses the example of a mother (v. 7) and father (v. 11) dealing with their children to show how a minister relates to his congregation... "we were

_____ among you, even as a nurse (nursing mother)
_____ her children ... As ye know how we
_____ (taught, encouraged) and
_____ and _____ (pleaded with,
testified) every one of you, as a father doth his children, that ye would walk
worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.”

16. Paul commends the Thessalonians for receiving the word of God even though, as a
result, “ye also have _____ like things of your own
_____ (v. 14).

17. What evidences are there of Paul’s love for the Thessalonians? (2:17, 3:2)

18. In what way would Paul, and a minister feel that, “Ye are our glory and our joy?”
_____ (2:20).

19. What concern did Paul have regarding this church (3:1-5)? _____

20. In what way does Psalm 116:12 relate to vs. 9-13? _____

Read
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

We all want to please the people we really love. A
child may bring his mother a bouquet of dandelions. A
husband may bring his wife a bouquet of roses. A
child of God seeks to please the God whom he loves so

dearly. How does a believer please God? Read this chapter for Paul’s instruction.

21. Describe the holy walk of life, which Paul urges upon this church (4:3-12).

- a. Abstain from _____,
- b. Take a wife in _____ and
_____, not in _____
- c. Don’t take advantage of your _____ (v. 6)
- d. _____ one another (v. 9)

e. _____ with your own hands (v. 11) (Be industrious, since some apparently had abandoned their occupations, believing that Christ's 2nd coming was imminent.)

f. Walk _____ (v. 12)

22. Why would Paul give these instructions to people whom he says are already living a life which pleases God (v. 1, 10)? _____

Evaluator: _____

Meditation: "And patience of hope" – I Thessalonians 1:3

What is meant by the expression "patience"? It means *endurance*; as though hope had to endure, faith to work, and love to labour. It is the "patience of hope" that proves its reality and genuineness. Hope does not go forward fighting and cutting its way. Hope is like a quiet sufferer, patiently bearing what comes upon it. Hope is manifested in enduring, as faith is manifested in acting. For instance: when the Lord hides His face, when testimonies sink out of sight, when signs are not seen, when Satan tempts, when the work of grace upon the soul seems to be all obscured, and in consequence a feeling of despondency begins to set in, then the "patience of hope" is needed to endure all things – not to give way, but to maintain its hold. It acts in the same way, according to the beautiful figure of Paul, as the anchor holds the ship. What is the main value, the chief requisite in the cable that holds the anchor? Is it not *endurance*? The cable *does nothing*; it simply endures. It does not make a great ado in the water; its only good quality, the only quality wanted in it, is strength to endure, not to break. When the waves rise, the billows beat, the storm blows, and the tide runs strongly, then the work of the cable is not to part from the anchor, not to break, but firmly to maintain the hold it has once taken. And thus with the anchor too. It does nothing, and is wanted to do nothing. To hold fast is all its work and all its excellence. Thus it is with a hope in a sinner's breast. Has the Lord ever shown Himself gracious unto him? Has the Lord ever made Himself precious to his soul? ever dropped a testimony into his conscience? ever spoken with power to his heart? Has his soul ever felt the Spirit inwardly testifying that he is one of God's people? Then his hope is manifested by enduring patiently everything that is brought against it to crush it, and if God did not keep, utterly to destroy it.

Taken from: Meditations Through Baca's Vale by J.C. Philpot