

November 27/Day 331

- Jumping from Acts to Thessalonians for a minute.
- This is an epistle or a letter.

1 Thessalonians 1

Verse 1

- Who authored this letter?
- Silvanus is another name for Silas.
- To whom is the letter written? The Thessalonians were people of Thessalonica, which is in Greece. We saw Paul visit there in Acts.
- Notice this is 1 Thessalonians. This is the first letter written to the believers there.

Verses 2-10

- How does it make you feel to know someone is praying for you?
- What are we told about the recipients of this letter? Check out the entire paragraph. What is said of them now, what was said of them before they came to know Jesus? What was it like as a believer in their culture?
- How did the gospel come to the Thessalonians?
- What do you think Paul means by saying they imitated him? Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Think it through.
- From what does Jesus rescue believers?

1 Thessalonians 2

Verses 1-8

- Do you remember what happened to Paul in Philippi?
- Exhortation is a strong urging. It's an encouragement to persevere.
- How does using an exhortation support Paul's assertion that he spoke with boldness rather than flattery, not caring to be a people-pleaser?
- In what way did Paul, Silas, and Timothy impart their lives to these believers? Keep going.

Verses 9-12

- How did they behave toward these believers?
- Scriptural encouragement isn't just a pat on the back, or a hollow *Ill be praying for you*. Encouragement in Scripture is pointing to Scripture to apply to your walk.

Verses 13-16

- Is it possible to hear a word yet not receive that word?
- What does “receiving the word” do for those who believe?
- Previously the word tribulation was used, and now the word suffering. From whom did these men receive suffering?
- How did this action make the ones causing the suffering hostile toward ALL men?

Verses 17-20

- If we are unsure who is authoring this letter, which verse would confirm his identity?

1 Thessalonians 3

Verses 1-5

- This chapter begins with therefore. Therefore is used to conclude what is being said. So, what is the therefore concluding? To find the answer, look back to chapter 2 to see what Paul is talking about.
- Who had Paul sent to encourage the Thessalonians?
- What word in verse 3 is similar to tribulation and suffering?
- What did Paul send to find out?

Verses 6-10

- What are we told about the recipients here?
- What word in verse 7 is similar to tribulation, suffering, and affliction? Are you starting to get the point?
- What would standing firm have to do with what we’ve read in Thessalonians so far?

Verses 11-13

- What is his blessing upon them here?

1 Thessalonians 4

Verses 1-8

- How was their walk (pattern or habit of life)?
- The sanctification process is the process by which the believer grows in the faith and becomes more Christ-like. To be sanctified means to be set apart. We’re not just set apart in that we are different. When God sets us apart, it is for His purposes and His reasons. An example of this is Cyrus the Mede. He was not a believer, yet God set him apart to use him to do His will.
- What impure characteristics are mentioned here? Who would be setting this example?

Verses 9-12

- What should they make as their ambition?
- Is there any application here? I used to tell my kids, when they'd come tattling, *you worry about you.*

Verses 13-18

- How do believers grieve differently from unbelievers?
- This passage is about the Rapture of the church. Do you remember when Philip was whisked away from the eunuch? This is the same concept. Those who don't believe in the rapture say it is because the word is not used in Scripture. It's not, but its principle is there. The word in the Greek for "caught up" is *harpazo*, and in the Latin is *rapio* or *rapturo*. This is where we get the word rapture. In the Latin, it means to "snatch away".
- What will happen to believers in the clouds?
- How should this be a comfort?

1 Thessalonians 5

Verses 1-11

- We are starting a new chapter, but remember, chapter and verse divisions were added in later to help us find our way around Scripture. To which times and epochs is this referring?
- Does anyone know when this will happen?
- Will it happen quickly or over time?
- What is the purpose of remaining alert?
- Does verse 8 remind you of any other Scriptures?

Verses 12-22

- What is the context of "live at peace with one another"? Remember to whom the letter is written.
- What are some instructions here?
- Who did we see before that was known for examining everything carefully? Would believers today be wise to do the same?

Verses 23-28

- What personal request does Paul make?
- This is the end of the first letter to the Thessalonians.

2 Thessalonians 1

- This is the second letter to the Thessalonian believers.

Verses 1-2

- Who authored this second letter?
- To whom is it written?

Verses 3-12

- What is said about these believers that we saw in the first letter as well?
- What was the purpose of their suffering?
- What would God do to the afflictors?
- What happens in verse 8? But, I thought Jesus was all about love. What do you think about this strong wording?
- How is it possible to be counted worthy of our calling?

2 Thessalonians 2

Verses 1-12

- According to verses 1 and 2, what are some teaching?
- What does verse 3 say about this teaching?
- Are you aware there are some in the church who still teach this?
- What comes first? Apostasy is falling away from the faith. It's not leaving a certain church, or denomination, or having a change of mind about some topics; it's turning away from the faith. It is possible to be deceived and turn away from faith while claiming to have faith.
- What will the man of lawlessness do?
- What is already at work? Think about it. It was at work back when this was written.
- We use the word perish to mean die. In this Scripture, the word perish means to be separated from God forever. Why will some perish?
- What will be sent so they will not believe? Who will do this? Is this a hard passage? We can trust that God is faithful and loving and if He hardens anyone's heart, we can know they had already made their choice. 2 Peter tells us it's not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Verses 13-15

- When were believers chosen? This wording does not mean that some were chosen and some were not. Scripture tells us that Jesus died for the entire world (John 3:16). The ones who have or will believe are called His chosen. If this is hard for you, keep going.
- Why is perseverance important?

Verses 16-17

2 Thessalonians 3

Verses 1-5

- What is Paul's personal request here?

Verses 6-13

- From whom should they keep away?
- What was Paul's example?
- If a person is unwilling to work, what should he not do?
- He has already mentioned what I call, *you worry about you*. What more does he add here?
- Is there a possibility of growing weary?

Verses 14-18

- With whom should they not associate?
- Yet, we go by their profession and do what? We will see more about this.

See you tomorrow.