

Gleanings of Grace

1 Thessalonians 5

Lesson 13

Although the time that Paul spent in Thessalonica was brief, he left behind a thriving group of believers so that they became examples to those in regions around them. Paul's purpose was to encourage the believers to live holy lives in the midst of their pagan surroundings. He did this by pointing out the contrasts between believers and unbelievers. May you be reminded of the difference God has made in your life as you bask in Paul's reminders and exhortations.

OBSERVATION: Read 1 Thessalonians 5

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus, God, and Holy Spirit*.

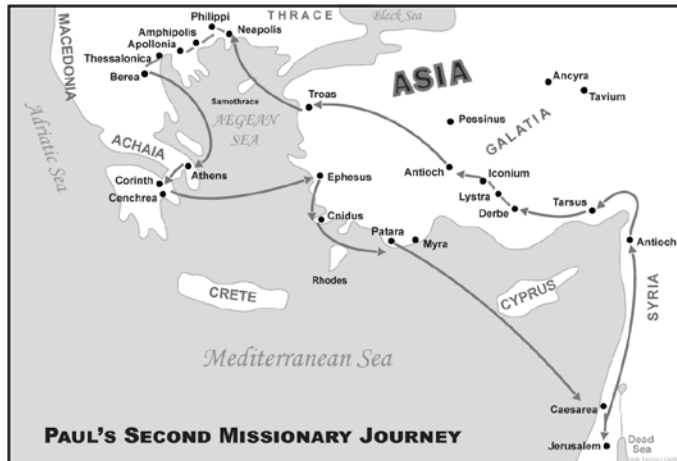
Key Words: *Jesus, God, and Holy Spirit*

3. Underline or highlight the commands. List five of them.
4. The contrasting word *but* is used six times in 1 Thessalonians 5 as Paul reveals how the believer is different from the unbeliever. Mark the word. Record a few examples of the advantages of the believer.

5. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used two times in this chapter. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what it is based upon.

Background:

Using the information from questions #1 through #6, trace the footsteps of Paul on the map. Note: Bythnia, Phygia, and Mysia are regions, not cities.



1. The first place to mark on the journey is found in Acts 16:1. Paul found a young man who would be an important traveling companion. What was his name?
2. According to Acts 16:6-10, what happened next?
3. Mark the cities mentioned in Acts 16:11-12.
4. While in Philippi, Paul and Silas were imprisoned. *There was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed* (Acts 16:26). Where did they go from Philippi? Acts 17:1
5. Acts 17:2-9 reveals some background of the events that occurred during the three weeks that Paul stayed in Thessalonica. Report, as if writing a newspaper article, the story behind these verses.
6. Leaving Thessalonica, Paul went to Berea. What comment was made about the Bereans in Acts 17:11?

7. Although Silas and Timothy remained in Thessalonica, they eventually met Paul in Corinth and reported to him regarding the state of the church in Thessalonica. Using the following verses, record what they reported:

1 Thessalonians 1:3

1 Thessalonians 1:6

1 Thessalonians 1:7

1 Thessalonians 1:8

1 Thessalonians 1:9

1 Thessalonians 1:10

- a. What is your impression of this body of believers?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 – The Day of the Lord

1. The believers in Thessalonica were well taught by Paul about the *times and seasons* regarding the return of Jesus. What had he taught them in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18?
2. What had Paul taught them about the *day of the Lord*? 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4
 - a. What did Jesus say about this day in Matthew 24:36-39?
 - b. What analogy do you see regarding *labor pains upon a pregnant woman* and the *day of the Lord*?
3. Using 1 Thessalonians 1:5-9, contrast the state of the believer and the unbeliever.
4. How:

are *faith and love* like a *breastplate*

is *salvation* like a *helmet*?
5. What does 1 Thessalonians 5:10 tell us about Jesus?

a. According to this verse, why did Jesus *die for us*?

- 1.) Whether we are alive or have died before the time of the rapture, we will *live with* Jesus. Share some of your thoughts when you consider this awesome reality.

6. In 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Paul echoes his exhortation of 1 Thessalonians 4:18. In light of the glorious truths of our resurrection, what does he tell believers to do?

7. 1 Corinthians 15 is a great encouragement about the promise of our *resurrection*. What are some things we can know?

1 Corinthians 15:20

1 Corinthians 15:24

1 Corinthians 15:42

1 Corinthians 15:43

1 Corinthians 15:44

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

a. What is Paul's exhortation as he closes this chapter in verse 58?

- 1.) In what way do the verses of 1 Corinthians 15 encourage you to walk as Paul has instructed?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 - Those Who Labor Among You

1. Paul, the one who had taught them so many truths, *urges* them to *recognize* certain people among them. What three things did he say about them in verse 12?

2. What obligation did they have towards these people? Verses 12,13

3. Define the following:

recognize

esteem very highly in love

4. Write the last sentence of verse 13.

a. How is doing this a way to *recognize* and *esteem highly* those who *labor among* us?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-22 – Exhortations to Saints

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 begins with the words *now we exhort you*. Make a list of each exhortation in verses 14-22. Next to each one, write a brief explanation of what the instruction means to you.

2. Consider the words of verse 18. What do the following verses add to your understanding about *giving thanks*?

Ephesians 5:20

Philippians 4:6

Colossians 3:17

Hebrews 13:15

3. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 exhorts, *do not quench the Spirit*. Using synonyms, define the word *quench*.

a. What are some examples of *quenching the Spirit*?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-25 – Blessings and Admonitions

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:23 begins with the word *now*. What did Paul desire for these believers?

a. *Sanctify* has the sense of God separating believers for His purposes. In what ways have you seen God *sanctify* you?

2. Paul has placed much before these fairly new believers. What might your reaction be in reading the instructions of this chapter if you were a new believer?
 - a. Meditate on 1 Thessalonians 5:24. In what ways might this verse be an encouragement to someone who is feeling overwhelmed by the behavior expected of a Christian?
 - 1.) How does this verse encourage you?
3. Reflect upon Paul's request stated in verse 25. What does this say to you?

REVIEW: Read 1 Thessalonians 5

1. What is your understanding of the Day of the Lord?
2. In what ways has the Lord challenged you in this chapter?

*And this I pray,
that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,
that you may approve the things that are excellent,
that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,
- Philippians 1:9,10*

Observation Worksheet

1 Thessalonians 5

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.

² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. ³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. ⁶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. ¹¹ Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. ¹² And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil. ²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. ²⁵ Brethren, pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. ²⁷ I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren. ²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.