1 Thessalonians
Lesson #3, Chapter 1:1-5

Ask the Lord for His help and insight as you study His Word.

1. Though Paul is the author of the book of Thessalonians he includes the men who minister with him in verse 1. What do you learn about these men from the following verses?

   a. Silvanus: Acts 15:22, 32, 40; 18:5; 2 Corinthians 1:19; 2 Thessalonians 1:2.

   b. Timothy: Acts 16:1-3; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15.

2. Read Acts 15:40-18:6 and note the ministry highlights that Silas had with Paul on what's known as Paul's "Second Missionary Journey."

3. What elements about Paul's ministry do you observe from the sampling of verses to follow? See Romans 16; 1 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:2; Ephesians 6:21; Philippians 1:1; 4:21; Colossians 4:10-14.

4. Paul's ministry methodology is essentially *discipleship.* What do you observe (from the verses above) about discipleship at its most basic level that is absolutely crucial for us to understand? How are you applying this principle in your life?

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5. What do you learn about the *church* from verse 1?

6. In verses 2-4 Paul's affection for the Thessalonians is manifested in what 4 actions?

7. The word *constantly* in the NASB (ESV just translates as *remembering*; NKJV *remembering without ceasing*; NIV *continually*) carries with it the idea of an incessant cough. When you apply that definition to how Paul prays, what do you learn? What is his prayer life like?

8. What elements in your prayer life are similar or different from what Paul writes here in verses 2-5? What aspects do you want to make sure you incorporate into your prayer life?

9. As Paul is praying and thanking God, what 3 things does he keep in mind about the Thessalonians according to verse 3?

10. Define *work* [Strong's #2041].

    a. Define *labor* [Strong's #2873].

    b. Define *steadfastness* [Strong's #5281 (NKV *patience*; NIV *endurance*)].

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11. For some insight into what Paul meant by *work of faith* look at 1 Thessalonians 1:6-8 and 4:9-10. How was their *work of faith* manifested? See also Ephesians 2:10 for a good summary of what the phrase means. What did you learn?

12. Robert Thomas commenting on *labor* says, "So great is the concern for the object that love does not stop with ordinary effort, but goes the second mile and even beyond for the sake of another." See Philippians 2:25-30 to see a living illustration of this principle. What do you learn about a *labor of love*?

13. The phrase *steadfastness of hope* does not signify a resigned hopefulness in something that may happen, but a determined enduring that looks forward with assurance to that "hope." See 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23. What do you learn about the Thessalonians' hope?

14. Look over your answers to questions 11-13. Prayerfully examine your life for a *work of faith*, a *labor of love*, and a *steadfastness of hope*. What area do you think needs some attention? What are some things you might prayerfully change or add to these areas?

15. In verse 4 what two things do you learn about the Thessalonians? Notice how Paul uses similar terminology in 2 Thessalonians 2:13 and Ephesians 1:4-5.

16. Look up a *small* sampling of verses that reveal God's role in salvation. Take note of *who* is doing the action, then note what they *do* from the verses that follow:

    a. John 1:12-13; 6:44-45; Acts 13:48; Romans 8:3, 29-30; 9:23.

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b. 1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 1:4-5, 11; 2:5; Colossians 1:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2:12; 5:23.

c. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5-7; James 1:18; 1 Peter 2:9.

17. How has the truth of this doctrine—God loving and choosing you—impacted you? What affect has it had on your life?

18. From verse 5, name four things that you notice about Paul's *gospel*.

19. From the following verses write a summary statement about the gospel: Romans 1:16; 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 24; 15:1-11; and Ephesians 2:1-10.

20. How did the 4 elements of the gospel mentioned in verse 5 work in you at the time of your salvation?

21. What kind of men did Paul and his coworkers prove to be as stated in verse 5? See 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12.

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22. The message preached was authenticated by the conduct of Paul and his coworkers. How does living in such a way that there is no discord between what you say and what you do validate your message? Are there any areas in your life in which your words and actions don't match up? What steps do you need to take to make sure they do line up with each other?

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
that in Thine ocean depths
its flow may richer, fuller, be.
— George Matheson, 1882

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