

# **1 Thessalonians**

## **Lesson #5, Chapter 2 Overview**

The goal of this lesson is to teach you how to look at and begin to study a text of Scripture. Observation<sup>1</sup> is a necessary part of Bible study, but can often be overlooked or rushed through. Observation begins with reading through the chapter and then reading and rereading it again and again! At this stage in our Bible study you're noticing and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

1. To begin, read through Chapter 2. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 2. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4<sup>th</sup> grader the contents of the chapter.
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-8).
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 9-12).
  - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 13-16).

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<sup>1</sup> The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor, as we stop, observe, and consider each and every one of His recorded Words, in their context. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the debt I owe to the Precept Inductive Bible Studies observation method, which I have adapted in my studies. As far as I know, the method is the brainchild of Kay Arthur, though I've encountered a number of others who have also come up with similar ways for observing the text. The point of observation is to slow down and really look at what God has preserved for us in His Word. What I've created here is simply another variation to help us peer more closely at the Scriptures—for our good and His glory.

- d. Summarize paragraph 4 (verses 17-20).
  
2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your paragraph summaries, ask yourself: What is the main point of this chapter? How do all these details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Now record your answer.
  
3. Next, look for a verse in the chapter that *best* summarizes the contents of the chapter. You might be tempted to choose your favorite verse here, but please don't do that. Instead, consider which verse best sums up what's in the chapter. Write down the verse you chose here.
  
4. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  
5. List the things *God* did in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference with your answers. Your answer might look like this: God gave Paul boldness to preach the gospel to the Thessalonians according to verse 2.
  
6. List what you learn about *Jesus Christ* in this chapter. Be sure to list the verse reference to support your answer.
  
7. What do you learn about the Thessalonians in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references that support your observations.

8. What do you learn about the gospel and God’s Word in this chapter? Be sure to include the verse references with your answer.
9. Write down at least one thing you thought was interesting from this chapter.

## 1 Thessalonians Chapter 2

**1** For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain,

**2** but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

**3** For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit;

**4** but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

**5** For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness—

**6** nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

**7** But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.

**8** Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

**9** For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

**10** You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;

**11** just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,

**12** so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

**13** For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

**14** For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews,

**15** who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men,

**16** hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

**17** But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.

**18** For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan hindered us.

**19** For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?

**20** For you are our glory and joy.