

I Thessalonians

Before we plunge into Thessalonians I want to ask a question. What chapter in the Bible is so important that if it were missing the rest of the Bible probably would not make any sense?

After the group has thought about it for for a minute or two tell them it is the third chapter of Genesis. We need to start with what happened in the beginning so we will all be on the same page.

Let's turn to Genesis Chapter 3:6-15 and have someone read it.

Genesis Chp. 3:6-15 ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

A. Stop here and explain that this covering with fig leaves was mankind's first act of religion. We will see as we read on that God rejected religion.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

B. Who was the Lord God? It was Jesus (See John 6:46 Not that anyone has seen the Father, except

He who is from God; He has seen the Father. I John 4:12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.

9Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?10So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

11And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

12Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

13And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."14So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this,
You are cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.

15And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.

C.This is the first prophsy in the Bible it is saying that Mary's seed (Jesus) will bruise Satan's head but

Satan will only bruise Jesus's heel (Jesus experienced death for our sins but lives again because Death could not hold Him.

D. Now read Gen. 3:21 Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

1. **God rejects religion and establishes the sacrificial system** which is a **symbol of Christ sacrificial on the cross.**
2. So you see that Christianity is not a religion it involves people becoming right with God (righteous) by believing God. God does it all.
3. Notice that God offered a free gift (lamb skins) to cover their sin (disobedience).
4. When they accepted the sacrificial lamb skins they bought into Christ on the cross even though they did not know it at that time.
5. The blood sacrifice became the symbol that one day the perfect Lamb of God (Jesus) would be sacrificed for us.
6. What questions do you have?

D. The second act of religion was when Cain brought things from his garden as an offering to God instead of an animal sacrifice. Do you remember what Jesus did with his offering? He rejected it.

E. Christianity is being in Christ is not a religion it is a relationship. Read Eph. 1:1&2 ¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, ²To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful **in Christ** Jesus: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. When we believe we become "in Christ" Our sins

are covered by Christ's sacrifice just as Adam and Eve's sin was covered by the animal skins of the animal sacrific (Shed Blood). Any questions?

F.All those "in Christ" are saints.

- 1.The original word for "saints" is hagios meaning holy. They were set aside for God's use.
2. The pots and pans in the temple were holy. Why? They were set aside for use by God.

Introduction to Thessalonians

This wonderful epistle is almost at the end of Paul's epistles as far as their arrangement in The New Testament is concerned.

Do you think it was almost the last epistle he wrote? Actually, it was probably the first epistle that Paul wrote. It was written around AD 52 or 53.

This epistle is going to teach us a lot about Christian living and about being caught up to meet Christ (the Rapture).

Place

Thessalonica was a Roman colony.

Rome had a somewhat different policy of dealing with their captured people from what many other nations had. For example, Alexander the Great destroyed the cities he conquered.

1. Rome did not attempt to directly change the culture, the habits, the customs or the language of the people it conquered.
2. Instead it would set up Colonies which were arranged geographically in strategic spots throughout the Empire.
3. A city which was a Roman Colony would gradually adopt

Roman laws, customs and ways.

4. In the local department stores, you would see the latest things they were wearing in Rome itself.
5. Thus, these colonies were very much like a little Rome.
6. Thessalonica was such a Roman Colony, and it was an important city in the life of the Roman Empire.

Thessalonica was located about fifty miles north of Athens for you geography nuts.

1. It was Cicero who said, "Thessalonica is in the bosom of the Empire."
2. It was right in the center or the heart of the Empire and was the chief city of Macedonia.

Why do you think the city was first named Therma?

1. There were hot springs in that area.
2. In 316 B.C. Cassnader took Macedonia and made Thessalonica his home base. He renamed the city in memory of his wife, Thessalonike, who was a half sister of Alexander The Great.
3. The city is still in existence and is now known as Salonika.

What can you tell me about Cassnader and Alexander The Great in Bible Prophecy?

1. Remember Daniel saw a vision and was later told, by the Angel Gabriel, the Gentile Empires in the vision would exist on the Earth until the end of the age of the Gentiles.

Let's read Daniel 2:31-45 because it is going to become important later on in Thessalonians and it will answer the questions about Cassnader and Alexander.

31 "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor *was* excellent, stood before you; and its form *was* awesome. **32** This

image's head *was* of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs^[a] of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.^[b] ³⁴ You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

³⁶ "This *is* the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. ³⁷ You, O king, *are* a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; ³⁸ and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given *them* into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you *are* this head of gold. ³⁹ But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, *that kingdom* will break in pieces and crush all the others. ⁴¹ Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. ⁴² And *as* the toes of the feet *were* partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. ⁴³ As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God

of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. ⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

1. The head of gold was King Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylonian Empire.
2. The breast and arms of silver were the the Med/Persian Empire (Darius and Cyrus).
3. The belly and thighs of brass were the Grecian Empire of Alexander the Great.
4. The legs of iron and clay were a Brutal Empire not named but it the original Empire conquered Alexander’s Empire (Original Roman Empire and the revived Roman Empire).

Now let’s look at Daniel 8:15-26. ¹⁵ Then it happened, when I, Daniel, had seen the vision and was seeking the meaning, that suddenly there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. ¹⁶ And I heard a man’s voice between *the banks of the Ulai*, who called, and said, “Gabriel, make this *man* understand the vision.” ¹⁷ So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, “Understand, son of man, that the vision *refers* to the time of the end.”

¹⁸ Now, as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep with my face to the ground; but he touched me, and stood me upright. ¹⁹ And he said, “Look, I am making known to you what shall happen in the latter

time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end *shall be*. 20 The ram which you saw, having the two horns—*they are* the kings of Media and Persia. 21 And the male goat *is* the kingdom^[a] of Greece. The large horn that *is* between its eyes *is* the first king. 22 As for the broken *horn* and the four that stood up in its place, four kingdoms shall arise out of that nation, but not with its power.

23 “ And in the latter time of their kingdom,
When the transgressors have reached their fullness,
A king shall arise,
Having fierce features,
Who understands sinister schemes.

24 His power shall be mighty, but not by his own
power;
He shall destroy fearfully,
And shall prosper and thrive;
He shall destroy the mighty, and *also* the holy
people.

25 “ Through his cunning
He shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule;
And he shall exalt *himself* in his heart.
He shall destroy many in *their* prosperity.
He shall even rise against the Prince of princes;
But he shall be broken without *human* means.

26 “ And the vision of the evenings and mornings
Which was told is true;
Therefore seal up the vision,
For *it refers* to many days *in the future*.”

1. Verse 20 covers the Meds/Persian.
2. In Verse 21 the great horn is Alexander The Great.
3. In verse 22 it tells us that when the horn was broken and four stood up and from it.

4. When Alexander died his empire was divided among his four generals. Guess who was one of the generals?
Cassnader.
5. Notice in verse 23 it skips to the later times and it starts to talk about the Antichrists rise to power.
6. Remember the Roman Empire followed the Grecian Empire but that was long ago. So how do you explain this?
7. The answer is in Chapter 2:33 (His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay). Who wants to explain this?
8. Remember that the Old Roman Empire was never conquered it just sort of faded away and it became the countries of Europe.
9. So God said from His prospective that there will be only those four Empires that He would use. It looks like some of these European Countries will be the revived Roman Empire.
10. The Antichrist comes out of this last Empire. The toes represent the 10 endtime nations.
11. Verse 35 tells us all these Empires will be smote by the stone that becomes a great mountain and fills the whole earth. Who is that stone? Christ is that stone and the mounitian is His !000 year Kingdom when He rules the Earth.
12. In verse 44 the God of heaven set up an everlasting kingdom (this is Eternity).

So why did I spend all this time with Daniel's prophecies? In Thessalonians, Paul will talk about end time things including the Rapture and Christ's coming to the Earth with all His Saints.

Occasion Of The Writing

The church in Thessalonica was established on Paul's second missionary journey and was a model church. This church was a testimony to the whole area that we would call Greece today. Paul also speaks of this church as being an example to the Corinthians

II Corinthians 8:1-5.

Paul was evidently only in Thessalonica a little less than a month but in that period of time he did a herculean task of mission work.

1. He led multitudes to Christ, organized a local church and taught them the great doctrines of the Christian faith.
2. Paul had to leave Thessalonica posthaste due to the great opposition to the gospel. He was run out of town.
3. First he fled to Berea but the enemy pursued him.
4. Paul left Silas and Timothy at Berea.
5. Timothy and Silas came to Paul in Corinth and brought questions concerning believers in Thessalonica.
6. Paul wrote I Thessalonians to instruct the Thessalonian believers further and give them needed comfort.

Although Paul had been in Thessalonica less than a month he had touched on many of the great doctrines of the church including the second coming of Christ. It is interesting that Paul did not consider these subjects to be above the heads of new converts. During the period of time since Paul had left, some of the believers had died. The believers wanted to know if dead saints would be in the Rapture or not.

Purpose

The epistle has a threefold purpose: (1) to confirm young converts in the elementary truth of the gospel. (2) To encourage them to live holy lives. (3) To comfort them regarding the return of Christ.

Paul's message offered a marked contrast to the paganism and heathenism which was in Thessalonica. A heathen inscription in Thessalonica read: "After death no living, after the grave no meeting again."

Comparison of I and II Thessalonians

In I Thessalonians, the emphasis is upon the rapture of believers.

In II Thessalonians, the emphasis shifts to the coming of Christ to establish His kingdom.

Chapter 1

Have someone in the Group read the first verse of Chapter 1.

Chp 1:1 ¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. This introduction is typical of Paul's other epistles, but there are some differences which are important.

1. Paul joins Silas and Timothy with himself in his greeting.
2. Remember that Silas and Timothy had just returned to Paul with their report from Thessalonica.
3. Why do you think it was important to join their names with his? The Thessalonians would know they are all in agreement concerning this letter.

Chp 1:2-4 ² We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

A. Paul gives thanks For this church because of many things and one of the most important was because they were an example.

B. Scholars claim that this verse is a remarkable because Paul associates the three Christian graces: faith, love and hope. Read I Corinthians 13:13 ¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

C. Notice how Paul puts these three words into shoe leather.

1. He cites the three steps in the lives of the Thessalonian believers: "How you turned to God from idols" --that's the work of faith; "to serve the living and true God", a labor of love; "to wait for his Son from heaven" in the patience of hope.
2. Putting this into shoe leather is like the story of the contractor who loved children. He poured concrete in the morning for a sidewalk--and he finished it in the late afternoon. He came back the next morning to find that some children had walked on the concrete and had left their footprints. He was very angry. A man standing near by said, "I thought you loved children" the contractor said, "I love them in the abstract, but not in the concrete."

C. I am told that one of the scientists who designed the heat shield that was on the space capsules said, "Have you ever noticed that the universe is divided into a trinity?"

1. "The physical universe is divided into time, space and matter. Can you think of a fourth?"
2. "Time is divided into three parts: past, present, and future. Can you think of a fourth?"
3. "Space is divided into length and breath and

height. They speak of a 'fourth dimension' but it doesn't happen to be in this material universe."

D. It sounds like a trinity to me. How about you and I we are body, soul and spirit.

E. What is the work of faith? It is a strange expression because we are told that "by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" Eph 2:8,9.

F. Paul is making it very clear that he and James do not contradict each other. Read James 2:18 " 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

1. That is the work of faith. It is the way faith is demonstrated to others.
2. James and Paul do not contradict each other--as some have suggested because they are both writing about the same thing.

G. Let's see whether I can make this clearer from scripture.

1. Read II Corinthians 5:7 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. When a person responds to the Word of God, then they walk by faith.
2. Read John 6:28-29 where Jesus says the same thing. 28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."
3. Jesus did not say that you could come to God

with your works, but you must come to God by faith.

4. What do we possess that we can bring to God?
Nothing.

H. There is a good illustration of this in the life of the disciples, read Luke 5:4-5 ³ Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.⁴ When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

1. So what do you do when you are taught something from the scriptures about your personal life?
2. Do you say like Peter I already tried that and I still lie, covet, lust, over eat, forget to tell friends about Christ, or whatever it is with you.
3. Ask whether anyone wants to discuss this?

I. We have the same illustration in the life of Cain and Abel.

1. Were they both sinners? Yes.
2. Why did Cain have a problem? He was not only a sinner by nature (like everyone of us) but he was also a sinner by choice and act.
3. Let's read Hebrews 11:4 ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

J. Now let's go back to Genesis and see what happened.
1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." 2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

Chp 1:5 5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

A. What is Paul telling them?

1. He says that when we came to you, we were just human beings all we could do was say words.
2. However, the Word of God came to you in power and with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one that woos (draws) us to love Jesus because as sinners we would not do it on our own.

Chp 1:6 6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

A. These words suffering and joy seem to be in conflict with each other. They don't seem to belong together. So

what is Paul talking about?

B. People were persecuted when they became believers but they were so excited about becoming believers they had joy.

Chp 1:7 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe.

A. In Macedonia and Achaia--this refers to the European section of the Greco-Macedonian empire of Alexander the Great.

B. the church at Thessalonica, a Roman colony, was an example, after just a few months, to other believing groups.

C. What a wonderful testimony they had.

Chp 1:8-10 8The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, 9for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

A. It is interesting how Paul said that they turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

1. Are nonbelievers supposed to repent? No
2. They are to tell unbelievers who will listen that Jesus Christ can be their Saviour.
3. The Bible teaches that it is the believers who need to repent. (That is what I John is all about).

4. Paul probably did not preach to them to give up idols, they had to do this with the help of the Holy Spirit.
5. Do you have any idols (sins) to give up?

B. Did Jesus ask Peter, why in the world did you deny Me?

1. No, What did He ask Peter? Do you love Me?
2. What does Jesus say to us? If you love me, keep my commandments. Did you know that in Chapter 4 of this Book of Thessalonians there are twenty two commandments? How many of you are saying I knew that?
3. Have you thought much about being in disobedience to Christ when you do not keep His commandments? This has something to do with walking with the Lord.

Chp 2:1-6 ¹ For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. ² But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict. ³ For our exhortation *did not come* from error or uncleanness, nor *was it* in deceit.

⁴ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. ⁵ For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God *is* witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

A. When Paul came to Thessalonica, it rocked a great many people, bringing many to a saving knowledge of Christ.

1. Also, it brought a church into existence.
2. Paul was not talking about a theory or a philosophy, but about something that worked.
3. How do we know it worked? It changed lives from idol worship to God.

B. Paul had experienced conflict in Philippi before he came to Thessalonica. Do you remember what happened?

1. Let's go to Acts 16:1-40 to read about it.

C. ¹ Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, *the* son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father *was* Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. ³ Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took *him* and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. ⁴ And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. ⁵ So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

The Macedonian Call

⁶ Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. ⁷ After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit[[a](#)] did not permit them. ⁸ So passing by Mysia, they came

down to Troas. **9** And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." **10** Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Lydia Baptized at Philippi

11 Therefore, sailing from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and the next *day* came to Neapolis, **12** and from there to Philippi, which is the foremost city of that part of Macedonia, a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. **13** And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met *there*. **14** Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. **15** And when she and her household were baptized, she begged *us*, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

Paul and Silas Imprisoned

16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. **17** This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." **18** And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come

out of her." And he came out that very hour. **19** But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged *them* into the marketplace to the authorities.

20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; **21** and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." **22** Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods. **23** And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. **24** Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

The Philippian Jailer Saved

25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. **26** Suddenly 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. **27** And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. **28** But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." **29** Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. **30** And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" **31** So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." **32** Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. **33** And he took them the same hour

of the night and washed *their* stripes. And immediately he and all his *family* were baptized. ³⁴ Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Paul Refuses to Depart Secretly

³⁵ And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go."

³⁶ So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace."

³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, *and* have thrown *us* into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out."

³⁸ And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. ³⁹ Then they came and pleaded with them and brought *them* out, and asked *them* to depart from the city. ⁴⁰ So they went out of the prison and entered *the house of* Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

D. Now you know what the conflict in verse 2 was all about.

E. If you were asked to choose the greatest sermon by Paul which one would it be?

1. The sermon at Damascus after his conversion.
2. The sermon before Sergiu Paulus on the Island of Cyprus when he began his missionary work.
3. The sermon in the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia on his first missionary journey.

4. The sermons on Mars Hill in Athens, and his defense in Corinth and in Ephesus at the school of Tyrannus.
5. The messages he gave in Jerusalem when he was arrested.
6. The message he brought before Felix and Festus and Agrippa.
 - a. Most Bible scholars agree that this one before Agrippa was a masterpiece.
7. The farewell speech on the beach to the elders of Ephesus.
8. In every message Paul presented two important things about Christ. What are these two things?
 - a. Christ's death and resurrection.

F. Maybe Paul's greatest sermon was the one we are going to look at in the rest of Chapter 2. Let's see why?

1. The heart of it is outlined in verses 3-6 let's reread them.

G. Verses 3-6 ³ For our exhortation *did* not *come* from error or uncleanness, nor *was it* in deceit.⁴ But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts. ⁵ For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God *is* witness. ⁶ Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

1. Deceit in verse 3 means error.
2. What does this say about Paul?
3. Paul never changed the gospel to suit different groups. He did not water down the gospel.
4. Error is what has happened in some of the main line churches during our times.

5. Uncleaness means sensuality. Paul was not motivated by greed or notoriety. He came with a pure motive.
6. What does guile mean?
 - a. Sly or cunning informaton. Remember what Satan say to Eve in the garden of Eden? He questioned what God said. You can find it in the third chapter of Genesis.

H. What does the word approved mean in verse 4.

1. God trusted or approved Paul to be an honest teacher.

- I. Tell me what verses 5 & 6 mean?
 1. Flattery can be used to disarm people to get something from them.
 2. Maybe money or fame.
 3. Paul had pure motives.

Chp 2:7-9 7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children. 8 So, affectionately longing 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 dear to us. 9 For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

A. The word "nurse" used in some of your versions means a nursing mother.

B. The word "dear" in verse 8 means beloved.

C. What kind of a minister is Paul based on these verses?

1. He loves the Thessalonians with a mother's love.

D. Travail in verse 9 talks about labouring night and day that is like a mother's work.

1. Tell the story about the two girls that worked together in a cotton mill. One quite and because she got married and had a baby. She worked lots longer hours but she did not watch the clock as she did at the mill because it was a work love.

Chp 2:10-13 **10** You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; **11** as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged[[a](#)] every one of you, as a father *does* his own children, **12** that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.**13** For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

A. You are witnesses, -- Paul is speaking of something which they knew to be true.

1. What did they see in Paul's conduct?
2. : "Blamelessly," This means that no charge could be maintained against the apostle and his companions.
3. This does not mean that they didn't accuse him- because they did but the charges didn't stick.

B. In verse 11 the word "exhorted" is the Greek word "parakaleo" which means that Paul came to the side of them, to help, to entreat, and to convict them.

1. "Parakaleo" is the same word which is used for

the Holy Spirit. Read John 16:7-11 7
Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

C. Also in verse 11 the word "comforted" is not used in the sense we use it today. Rather, the word here means "to persuade."

1. There was an urgency in Paul's message to the Thessalonians. He often said, "I beseech you"--I beg you.
2. Why do you think Paul did this? Time could be short. In a sense isn't time always short.

D. "Walk worthy". Paul also wrote this to the Ephesians. See Eph 4:1 I; therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called.

1. Live in the light of eternity.
2. Paul in this section is talking like a father.
3. God called you into his kingdom. What does that tell you about predestination?

E. Do you think that our church should be a revelation of God to our community just as a family should be?

Chp 2:14-16 **14** For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they *did* from the Judeans, **15** who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, **16** forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up *the measure of* their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

A. "Brethren"--that is, brothers - sisters. In one sense there are two things that make brothers-sisters regardless of race or color. What are the two brotherhoods.

1. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. This is the brotherhood of sinners.
2. Since it is a brotherhood of sinners, it is not a loving brotherhood. You had better watch your brother; you can't always trust him.

B. Here Paul is talking about the brother/sisterhood of Christians.

1. What drew the Thessalonians together as brothers/sisters?
2. Suffering.
3. Was the Thessalonian church made up largely of Jews? No see "C" below.

C. The Thessalonian church was largely a Gentile church, and they were already experiencing persecution, although this was not yet the time of the great persecutions under the Emperors.

1. Paul is telling them that's before you began suffering, the brethren over in Jerusalem were

already suffering at the hands of their racial brothers.

2. Suffering draws you together and holds you together.

D. I think that the church is coming “unglued” and the reason for this is the same thing that Hosea spoke of when he said of Israel: “Ephraim waxed fat and kicked.” That is, they entered a period of affluence and they became critical and cynical .

1. America lives in affluence, but persecution may be around the corner. What do you think?

Chp 2:17-20 **17** But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. **18** Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. **19** For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? **20** For you are our glory and joy.

A. Paul was actually run out of Thessalonica, but his heart was still there.

B. Paul had spiritual discernment to see that it was Satan’s strategy that kept him from going to Thessalonica.

1. Do you know what Satan means? It means adversary.

C. I think that Paul was saying even if he could not get back to see them they would all be in glory together

whether by the rapture of death.

D. We will see that the great theme of I Thessalonians is the Rapture of the Church.

E. Today many churches do not teach this as something that must be related to how you live. However, Paul's teaching is entirely different.

Chp 3:1-4 ¹ Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, ² and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, ³ that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. ⁴ For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.

A. Paul longs to return to the Thessalonians but remains back at Athens alone but he sends Timothy, and perhaps Silas, Dr. Luke and others.

1. What does the Whereas or Therefore mean at the beginning of verse one. It means that Paul is tying this to what he has talked about in the previous chapters.

B. Paul calls Timothy our minister of God. The Greek word for "minister" is "diakonos". Do you know what it means besides minister?

1. We get our English word deacon; it literally means "servant."
2. Notice what Paul is emphasizing that the fellow

- labourers are teaching.
3. I understand that there has never been any great social movement that was not anchored in the preaching of the Gospel.
 4. I understand that child labor laws came out of the great Wesley meetings.
 5. To often the liberal do gooders are the ones that have no problem with immorality and license.

C. The word to “establish” you concerning your faith is the same word used back in the book of Exodus “Stayed up” when Moses went up to the mountain to hold up his hands in prayer to assure Israel’s victory.

1. Let’s read about it in Exodus 17:12 ¹² But Moses’ hands *became* heavy; so they took a stone and put *it* under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. ¹³ So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

D. What does comfort you concerning your faith mean?

1. Comfort means to encourage.

E. Who was supposed to do this for the people of Thessalonia. Timothy.

F. What is Paul teaching us in verse 3?

1. Afflictions means pressures, tensions, etc.
2. Read John 16:33 ³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

3. Read II Timothy 3:16 ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

4. Read I Peter 4:12-19 ¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. ¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ Now " *If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?*" ¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

G. In verse 4 tribulation means affliction. This does not refer to the Great Tribulation.

H. Notice in verse 15 a busybody is included with a murderer, a thief and an evildoer. I bet most of us would not be included as a busybody with these other sins.

Chp 3:5-8 ⁵ For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor

might be in vain.⁶ But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also *to see you*— ⁷ therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. ⁸ For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

A. In verse 5 who is the tempter? Satan.

B. Paul is happy with Timothy's report that they were not tempted.

Chp 3:9-12 ⁹ For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, ¹⁰ night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

Prayer for the Church

¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

A. Reread verse 9. This is the way I feel when we finish our Bible studies. You all are so interested in learning what your Heavenly Father has said to you in His Word the Bible.

1. It makes me glad that I have spent all the hours of study to prepare for the meetings.

2. I am sure that your interest brings a smile to God's face.

B. Verse sets a pretty high goal (blameless hearts) but we are taking the first step of learning about God from the Bible.

C. The next step is to apply it in our daily lives (it is okay to help each other).

D. Verse 13 has me scratching my head. Read verse 13 again and process it in your mind to see if you can see why I am scratching my head?

1. I asked myself what coming Paul is talking about in verse 13?
2. I thought the when Jesus comes to set up His Kingdom that He will be bringing His saints.
3. However, we know that Paul has been talking about the Rapture because that has been the question on the minds of the Thessalians.

E. Here is a possible explanation. There are different Greek words for "come," "coming" or "appearing".

1. The first word is "epiphaneia". What word do you think we get from epiphaneia? "Epiphany". The first coming of Christ as a baby was an epiphany.
 - a. The King James translation uses the word "appeared".
2. The second word is "apokalupsis" which means a revelation or and unveiling. That is actually the name of the book of Revelation.
 - a. We know that Christ was veiled in human flesh when He was on Earth.
3. The third Greek word is "parousia". It literally means "presence" or "being alongside". It is

commonly translated "coming" but it actually means presence.

4. We hear it used when someone is introduced to an audience. We are thankful for the coming of Congressman John Jones to speak to us tonight. He wasn't coming at that time he was **present** sitting on the platform.
5. Sometime in the King James translation, "parousia" is translated as "presence" and sometimes as "coming".
 - a. "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only.....(Philippians 2:12). In I Thessaloians 2:19 as well as in the verse we are considering, "parousia is translated "coming."
6. Therefore, "at the coming of our Lord Jesus" can refer to the fact that believers will be "present" with the Lord Jesus at the very moment that we are caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
7. He will take us home to heaven, to the place that He has prepared for us. What is the name of that place? The New Jerusalem.
8. So that this "coming" probably does not refer to the return of the Lord with His saints to establish His Kingdom, but to our coming to heaven into the presence of the Father.
9. You may we said that the same thought was found in I Thessalonians 2:19, "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even you in the **presence** of our Lord Jesus Christ at his **coming**?"
10. We will come into the presence of the Lord Jesus, and at that time will be presented "unblameable in holiness before God"

11. No one said that studying the Bible was a piece of cake. We would not have a very big God if it were that easy.
12. However, have you ever thought that God makes the part about Salvation easy all you need is John 3:16

Chp 4:1-2 ¹ Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; ² for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

A. This section teaches how the believers should walk down here because of the coming of Christ. The key word is **walk (meaning how you live/ behave)**.

1. Paul taught the Thessalonians a lot about Christ's coming (the Rapture).

B. We like to look forward to the day when we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

1. But, meanwhile, our feet are down here and we need to do some walking (behaving).
2. We are to walk (behave) in a way that will please God. How is your behaving going?
3. We will see the same message from Peter if we look at I Peter 2:9-12 ⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Living Before the World

- ¹¹ Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.
4. Paul is going to give us some commandments for believers to walk by. These are not the Ten Commandments.

C. Speaking of the Ten Commandments, why did God give the Ten Commandments?

1. People had been on Earth for a long time without specific laws from God. Did you ever wonder why God did not take Cain's life for killing his brother? The reason is that no law had been given.
2. The Ten Commandments were given so people would understand why they needed a Saviour. The Ten Commandments show us that we are sinners because we cannot keep just ten perfectly.
3. However, there are commandments for believers, and the standards for Christian conduct, In Chapter 5 we will find some twenty commandments for believers.
4. If we cannot keep the Ten Commandments how can we keep any additional commandments of Christian conduct?
 - a. We can't by ourselves.
 - b. This can be attained only by the power of

- the Holy Spirit who indwells the believer.
- c. Who wants to tell us how this happens?
 - d. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).
 - e. What exactly does that mean?
 - f. You know, in your mind, that there are things that you would not do if Jesus was physically with you all the time. (By the way He sees and hears everything you do).
 - g. You need to ask God to have the Holy Spirit give you power to deal with the thing or things you are doing which would not please Jesus. **Probably one at a time.**

Chp 4:3-5 ³ For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

A. Sanctification, what does it mean?

1. The literal meaning is to be "set apart for God."

B. Sanctification of the believer is a work of the Holy Spirit. There are three aspects of sanctification and it is very important.

1. Positional sanctification. What do you think it means. It means that we are accepted in Christ.

a. We will never be more saved than the moment we put our trust in Christ.

2. Practical sanctification. What is this?

a. It is the Holy Spirit working in our lives to produce a holiness in our walk.

- b. This will never be perfect so long as we are in these bodies with our sinful flesh.
- 3. Total sanctification. What is it?
 - a. It will occur in the future when we are conformed to the image of Jesus.
 - b. When does this happen? At death or the Rapture whichever comes first.

C. When Jesus looks at our behavior will He see it as different from non-believers?

D. All around these Thessalonian believers were the pagans who combined sex and religion. Sex was a religion among the Greeks.

E. Paul says loose living among believers brings the gospel into disrepute. Can you effectively serve God and continually live in sin? Paul is saying no.

F. The pagans knew all about sex but in order to have real love believers should know how to keep their vessel in sanctification and honor.

- 1. God says that the body and mind should be saved for the marriage relationship.

Chp 4:6 ¶ that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

A. You are to be honest if you are God's child.

- 1. Do you believe that God will be the avenger if you are dishonest?

Chp 4:7 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8 Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

A. A child of God is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. They should not continue to enjoy sin because the Holy Spirit is God.

1. Think about it, is the sin more important than pleasing you Heavenly Father??????
2. Maybe you do not think about what you are doing as a sin.
3. Remember God considers such small things as goseph, bad jokes, in appropriate looks, etc. as sins. Remember how you turned your your shoulder when you were a kid when you were disciplined by your parents?

B. I understand that the Holy Spirit is the only means by which we can live for God.

1. We see in Paul's letter to the Galatians that a child of God is not to indulge in the sins of the flesh examples are lust for cars, house, food, sensual pleasures, self importance, etc.

C. Tell me about your experience with the Holy Spirit living within you. What is that like?

1. Do you even think about it when you do something neat or not so neat?

Chp 4:9-12 9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and

more; ¹ that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, ¹² that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.

A. The primary fruit of the Holy Spirit is loving.

1. It is not just an abstract term or a theoretical kind of love it is a supernatural love.
2. Have you ever attend a church where you did not know anyone and yet you felt that you were among old friends?
3. Love should be an identifying mark of a child of God. Start out by being kind.

B. How are you taught by God?

1. By studying His word (the Bible).
2. Experience? It has to conform to the Bible.
3. If you were God how would you feel about a child of yours that did not desire to learn what was taught in the Bible?
 - a. What would you do about it?

C. Let me tell you a story I read about two pastors that happened to be roommates in college long before they were pastors. The story was shared by one of the pastors to give a little insight into brotherly love.

1. The pastor said that my roommate and I in college, could wrestle, fight, argue, try to get dates with the same girl, and all that sort of thing. They were both young Christians.
2. One day we really had a knock-down-drag -out fight. We literally torn up the room. We both proceeded to tell what we thought of each

- other, and it was not very complimentary.
3. All of a sudden something occurred to me, and I said, "You are the greatest proof that I am a child of God? He looked at me like I had really lost my marbles.
 4. I said that in spite of the fact that you are the most contemptible person and the most unlovely person I have every met, I love you.
 5. He looked startled and began to laugh. He said, You know I love you too, and you're a lots worse than I am!
 6. They never became fast friends but neither did they have any more knock-down-drag-out fights.
 7. They kept in touch over the years even though his old roommate was still sort of an ornery individual.
 8. He said that this was proof that we were children of God or there was no way that we could have loved each other.
 9. This was a little different slant on Christian love than I had ever thought of before.
 10. I have always thought of love as more of an intense feeling. What say you?

D. These verses are rich in practical Christian living.

E. Love for the brethren is an area for growth and development. One pastor said, "Very candidly, some of the saints are not very lovely. He said that someone has put that fact into this little jingle: "To dwell above with the saints in love Oh, that will be glory. But to stay below with some of the saints I know--Well, that's another story.

F. Paul recognized that the Thessalonians were working hard on loving the brethren, but there was still room for improvement.

G. There will be some personality conflicts among the saints. It may be better for such people not to be together too much, nor to put arms around each other and walk together. That doesn't mean we should dislike them. We can still love them as children of God.

1. Let's reread verse 11. Study to be quiet and to do your own business.

D. Study to be quiet is an interesting commandment for Christians.

1. We have all kinds of schools that teach people to speak. Perhaps they should also have a class that would teach their students to be quiet. A lot of saints need such a course including me.
2. There is this cute story about the lady that went to a "tongues meeting". They asked her would you like to speak in tongues? She answered, oh no I would like to lose about forty feet off the one I have now.

E. Do your own business is another a good commandment. Tend to your own knitting they used to say. Keep your nose out of the affairs of other people. Of course, this has to be balanced by our responsibility to come along side Christian sisters and brothers to help them live a Christian life.

F. Walk honestly before the unsaved. A child of God should not do questionable things because we are to walk honestly before unbelievers.

The next section deals with the coming of Christ as a comforting hope.

It is considered by some as the most important prophetic passage in the Bible.

It teaches the "imminent" and "impending" coming of Christ for His Church.

How can it be imminent if it has been about two thousand years now?

Paul taught that it was the next event on the agenda of God's program. The believers in Thessalonica thought it was probably going to happen in their life time.

Paul taught that Christ could come in his lifetime, but he did not say that He would. Read Titus 2:13 ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Chp 4:13 ¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

A. Let me give you a little background on why this question was so important to the Thessalonians believers.

B. Paul went to Thessalonica on his second missionary journey. Paul was there less than a month. In that month's time, he performed a herculean task. He did the job of a missionary. He preached the gospel, converts were made, and he established a church. then

he taught these new believers the great truths of the Christian faith. It is interesting that he even taught them about the rapture of the church (as many pastors today don't think new believers are ready for prophesy).

C. I would not have you to be ignorant. Paul is being pretty polite and diplomatic. You know full well that the brethren are ignorant on this subject.

D. What does Paul mean by "Concerning them which are asleep?"

1. Paul is referring to the death of the body.

E. Why did Paul say "them which are asleep" instead of dead? Let's get a little background here.

1. There is a similarity between sleep and death.
2. A dead body and a sleeping body are actually very similar. Have you heard someone at a funeral remark that the dead person looks as if they were asleep.
3. In a way it is true--the body is like it they were asleep. What is the key here? Let me explain.
4. A sleeper does not cease to exist, and the dead do not cease to exist.
5. Sleep is temporary, and death is also temporary.
6. Sleep has its waking; death has its resurrection.
7. Where do the dead go? Heaven & Hades.

F. The word which is translated "asleep" has its root in the Greek word "keyman," which means to lie down.

1. It is interesting that the word for resurrection is a word that refers only to the body. It is "anastasis," and it comes from two Greek words: "histemi" which means "to Stand," and "Ana" the preposition "up."

2. It is only the body which can stand up in the resurrection.
3. C.S. Lewis in his Screwtape Letters uses a little sarcasm to ridicule the liberals who believe that the resurrection is a resurrection of the spirit and not the body.
 - a. He asks what position the soul takes when it lies down in death, or what position does the spirit take when it stands up in resurrection.
4. The same word for sleep is used here is used when referring to a natural sleep in Luke 22:45 and in Acts 12:6.

G. The Bible teaches that the body returns to the dust from which it was created, but the spirit returns to God who gave it.

1. Read Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.
2. Read Genesis 3:19 For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.
3. Read II Corinthians 5:8 To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.
4. So it is the spirit that goes to Heaven as the body has not as yet been resurrected but will be at the Rapture.
5. Read II Corinthians 5:1 the word "tabernacle" is "skenos", which means a tent. So our body is nothing more than a tent. Remember that for a long time the Jew's Tabernacle was a tent.

H. The early Christians adopted a very wonderful word for the burying places of their loved ones--the Greek word "koimeterion" which means a rest house for

strangers, a sleeping place.

1. It is the same word form which we get our English word, "cemetery."
2. The same word was used in that day for inns or what we would call a hotel or motel.
3. They are places where you spend the night to sleep and you expect to get up the next day and continue your journey.
4. This is the picture of the place where you bury your believing loved ones.
5. Christians don't weep when they bury a believing loved ones like the nonbelievers.

Chp 4:14 **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

A. Notice Paul says that Jesus died and rose again. He doesn't say Jesus slept--He died. How accurate is this?

B. There are three kinds of death in Scripture.

1. There is "physical death," which is the separation of the spirit from the body. This is what we ordinarily call death. Adam didn't actually die physically until 930 years after the fall.
2. There is "spiritual death." Paul says that to be carnally minded is death, which is separation from God. This is what happened to man in the Garden of Eden. Man became separated from God. Adam & Eve hid from God. Adam did die the day he ate the fruit he died a spiritual death.
3. See Eph 2:1 And you he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins. This is what

- happened to Jesus when He inherited our sins.
3. This third death is "eternal death." This is eternal separation from God. What is this called in the Bible? The "second death."
 - a. See Revelations 20:14 **14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Chp 4:15 **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

A. Notice that Paul's assurance that he is giving God's answer to their question. Why were they asking the question?

1. Remember in the short time Paul was with them he taught them about the Rapture.
2. When do you think that Paul learned what he had taught to them?
 - a. I suspect it was when he was out in the desert after his conversion.

Chp 4:16 **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

A. Christ is not sending angels but He is coming Himself to gather the believers.

1. When Christ comes to the earth to establish His Kingdom, He will send His angels to the four corners of the Earth to gather the elect, that will be both Israelites and Gentiles who enter the

Kingdom.

2. There is no angel ministry connected with the Rapture of the Church.

B. Angels announced the birth of Christ, but how was He announced it was as the new born King. The wise men wanted to know where they could find Him who was born King of the Jews.

C. In contrast to this, at the establishment of the Church on the Day of Pentecost, there were no angels. The Holy Spirit Himself came down.

1. Angels are connected with Israel, but not with the Church.
2. I guess I really don't know what the role of angels is today. Does anyone know any verses in the New Testament that would help us?

D. Christ will descend from heaven "with a shout," that is a voice of command. It is the same voice which Jesus used when He stood at the tomb of Lazarus and said, "Lazarus, come forth."

1. Why did He address Lazarus by name?
2. Too many others may have arisen if He was not specific.
3. Do you think He will call each of our names at the Rapture?

E. The Trump of God. Will there be trumpets there? No, it is His voice that will be like a trumpet. How do we know this?

1. Read 1:10 "I was in the Spirit of the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet." He turned to see who it was, and he

saw the glorified Christ.

2. This should get rid of the myth of Gabriel blowing his horn or bowing a trumpet. Gabriel may not even own trumpet.

Chp 4:17 ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

A. This is the verse that gives us the "Rapture".

1. The Greek word "harpazo" means to grasp hastily, snatch up, to lift, transport, caught up or rapture.

B. Just picture this orderly procedure.

1. The dead will rise first. It may be that Stephen. Who was Stephen? He was the first martyr.
2. Then there will be the apostles and all the millions who laid down their lives for Jesus.
3. They will just keep coming from right down through the centuries. Finally, those still alive, at that time, will bring up the end of the parade.

Chp 4:18 ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

A. What a glorious, wonderful comfort is the Rapture.

1. So we shall ever be with Jesus, in fact we shall come back with Him to the Earth to reign with Him. However, that is another thought for another study.

Chp 5:1-2 ¹ 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.

A. A couple thoughts here. The believer is to be awake and alert in view of Christ' coming.

B. Why did Paul say that they had no need for times and seasons?

- 1.The "times and seasons" belong to this earth and to an earthly people--the ones "left behind."
2. The Church is looking for a Person, not times and seasons.

C. What is the Day of the Lord? The Day of the Lord starts with the beginning of the Great Tribulation.

- 1.First it brings God's judgment of mankind, the earth and Satan and his Demons.
- 2.That is followed by Christ's 1000 year rule of the Earth.
- 3.The Day of the Lord is followed by Eternity (long time).

D. Jesus does not come for the Church (believers) like a thief in the night. Believers are looking for blessed hope of His coming to get them. However, the Lord does come like a thief to the world after the Church has been raptured.

- 1.The day of the Lord will come suddenly to the earth and it will begin with the night of the great tribulation period.
2. The day of the Lord starts at night (a dark period) because that is God's way of marking time.
3. He began this in Genesis where it says that the evening and the morning were the first day.
4. The Jewish's day starts in the evening. (6:00pm)

5. So the Great Tribulation leads into the glorious millennial reign of Christ when the Sun of Righteousness will arise with healing in His wings.
6. Are we learning any new things.
7. I do not know whether there will be any time between the Rapture and the Day of the Lord.

Chp 5:3 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.

A. Notice the change in pronouns here? In the first two verses Paul is addressing the "brethren," and he says that it is not necessary for him to write to them about the times and seasons, because they have nothing to do with it-- as we come to the Day of the Lord the believers will be gone.

1. Here in verse 3 the pronoun changes to "they"-- when "they" shall say, Peace and safety.
2. Who will promise the world peace and safety? The Antichrist.

B. In Isaiah Chapters 12 and 13 you can read how God moves in judgment on society, government, military, commerce, art, pomp, pride and religion.

1. For example, see Isaiah 13:9 "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it."
2. Also, Isaiah 13:10 "For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in its going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine."

3. In Joel we have the same story. Joel 1:15 "Alas for the day of the Lord is at hand, and darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness" There is more in Chapter 2.

C. The event described in Chapter 4--the coming of Christ to take the church out of the world--is not even mentioned in the Old Testament.

1. It is there by type in the form of two individuals.
2. Who are they? Enoch and Elijah both of whom were taken up alive to be with the Lord.

D. When was it first revealed that Christ was going to take a company of people out of this world to be with Him?

1. Read John 14:2&3 "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also"

E. However, in the fifth chapter Paul is speaking of something which was well covered in the Old Testament. it is the Day of the Lord, the Day of Jacobs trouble, etc.

1. Even so Paul is telling us that it is going to be a big surprise to the world.
2. Why do you think it will be such a surprise?
3. Who is going to be left behind. Jews and Gentiles who mostly do not know the Bible.

Chp 5:4-5 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.

A. The rapture of the Church does two things:

1. It ends the time of the gentiles including the day of grace. Where did we learn about the Time of the Gentiles? In Daniel it tells us about the four Gentile powers that will rule the Earth until the end of the age. They are Babylon, Medo/Persia, Greece and a brutal power that will conquer Greece go away for a time and then return as ten powers.
2. What is the second thing? We have just been studying it. It is the beginning of the Day of the Lord.
3. When the Day of the Lord comes, we are going to be with the Lord. We are not in darkness. That day will not overtake us as a thief in the night. Jesus does not come as a thief to take His Church. The Church is looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour.

Chp 5:6 ¶ Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober.

A. What do you think Paul is saying in this verse?

1. The word "sober" has several meanings.
2. It can mean not get drunk on alcohol.
3. A lot of people get drunk on power, on making money, pleasures of this world, etc.

B. Paul is saying that a child of God should not get side tracked with these kinds of things but rather should be into God's word and obeying His commands.

1. As one of God's children what are you doing in His family?

2. For example, does doing things with your friends interfere with your family duties for God? Any one want to talk about it?

Chp 5:7-8 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.

A. Again Paul mentions the word "sober"

1. He is reminding the believers that they have a duty to perform.
2. Paul is going to put some meat on these three words.

B. FAITH.....LOVE.....HOPE

1. FAITH looks to the past when we accepted Christ.
2. LOVE is for the present, which is the relationship the believer should have with those Christians around them.
3. HOPE of salvation is that blessed hope of the future to be with Christ. We are not looking for the Great Tribulation.
 - a. Read I John 3:2 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.
 - b. Read Philippians 1:6 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;
 - c. Notice something in this verse that supports

- what we studied about the Day of the Lord.
- d. When will Christ complete His good work in you? At the believers death or the Rapture.

Chp 5:9-10 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.

A. Another reminder that we will not go into the Great Tribulation, we are not appointed to wrath.

Next we are going to look at Commandments for Christians

A. Here is a series of twenty-two commandments for Christians. In the Old Testament there were only Ten Commandments this is double plus two. Wow!!!!

B. Up until we are saved God is not asking anything of us except this question: What will you do with My Son who died for you?

C. After we accept Christ as our Saviour, then God talks to us about our life. You will see that a Christian is to live on a much higher plain than the Ten Commandments.

Chp 5:11 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

- A. Ok, what is the first commandment?
 1. Comfort each other which means to encourage one another in the faith.

2. The second is edify one another. The Thessalonian believers were already doing this.

Chp 5:12-13 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.

A. Here are three commandments that seem to belong together.

1. Know or understand those who teach the Word of God. It means we should recognize them.
2. Do you know what was the local situation in Thessalonica?
3. Paul had been there less than a month. He had won them to Christ and taught them.
4. A church was started "from scratch."
5. I understand that there probably wasn't a believer there before Paul arrived and presented the gospel to them.
6. We know that every believer is given a gift by the Holy Spirit when we believe and we are to use that gift. They did not know all that much about these gifts because there was no Bible.
7. The Thessalonians could have had an attitude that we were saved at the same time, why should they be teaching me?
8. Paul is telling them that those that are teaching the Word of God should have the attention of the believers, but they should know them.
 - a. Knowing them can and should have several meanings. Make sure they are treating God's word properly.

b.If they are, esteem them. That is the fourth commandment.

B. The fifth commandment is to be at peace among yourselves. Are you especially nice to believers?

Chp 5:14 ¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

A. Warn them that are unruly is the sixth commandment

1. I guess this would naturally follow the fifth commandment to "be at peace among yourselves."
2. The unruly are those who are out of step. They would rather do their own thing rather than support the work which God is doing.
3. They are to be warned.

B. Comfort the feebleminded is the seventh.

1. Who wants to tell us who are the feebleminded?
2. A better word would be fainthearted.
3. These are people who need encouraging as they are fearful about moving out for God. You know anyone like that?

C. Support the weak is the eight commandment.

1. There are folk who are weak in the faith.
2. These are usually babies in Christ.

D. Be patient toward all men is the ninth.

1. Don't lose your temper.
2. God commands us to be patient with everybody. This is difficult.

Chp 5:15 ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to

anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

A. Now here is the tenth commandment: see that none render evil for evil unto any person.

1. In other words, don't fight one another.

B. The eleventh--but ever follow that which is good among yourselves, and to all men. I have heard that there are three standards of conduct or philosophes of life.

1. What do you think the the pagan says, "You get the other guy before he gets you".
2. The so-called refined says, "Do good to those that do good to you".
3. The Christian is to live to a different standard. We are to do good to even those who do evil to us. This one is really tough, right?

Chp 5:16-21 ⁶ 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.

A. Now the twelfth commandment is rejoice always.

1. Rejoice does not mean to be happy.
2. Read Philippians 4:4 ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!
3. A Child of God has no right to go around with a sour puss or be cantakerous.

B. The thirteenth is to have an attitude of prayer.

1. This does not mean you are to be on your knees all day. But pray often during the day about the

things you do.

2. What kind of things do you pray about?

C. Associated with praying is the fourteenth commandment "giving thanks" in all circumstances.

1. One pastor said that when someone comes to him and asks what is the will of God for them he gives them three specific things.

a. Rejoice always.

b. Pray without ceasing.

c. Give thanks in everything.

D. What is meant by the fifteenth commandment "Quench not the Spirit?"

1. One of the figures that is used for the Holy Spirit is fire. How do you quench a fire? You dampen it down.

2. To quench the Spirit means that you refuse to do the will of God, that is you are not listening to the Holy Spirit.

3. You cannot grieve a thing; you grieve a Person.

E. Sixteen is "despise not prophesying."

1. I think prophesying in this instance means teaching the Word of God.

2. One explanation was not to look down on Bible study as it is difficult to live an effective Christian life if you are ignorant of the Bible.

F. Prove all things is seventeenth.

1. Don't be gullible.

2. Investigate everything to which you give your support.

3. Don't be taken in by flattery.

G. Eighteen is "hold fast to that which is good."

1. This is another area where Bible knowledge is important.

- H. Abstain from all appearance of evil is nineteen.
1. If you have a question about whether something is right or wrong for you, here is your answer.
 2. That is more than a rule of thumb. What do you think?

Chp 5:23-28 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.

- A. What is Paul saying in verse 23?
1. He is asking that God sanctify the believers "wholly"--not perfectly, but we are not to remain babes in Christ, we should be maturing.
 2. Man is a triune being; body, soul, and spirit.
 3. We all know what is a body. What are the soul and spirit?
 - a. The soul is you (your personhood).
 - b. The spirit is the Holy Spirit that lives in believers.

B. Verse 24 tells us that we can depend God.

C. Paul's twentieth command is to pray for those who

give out the gospel. (Verse 25).

D. Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss is a commandment too. However, just make sure that it is a holy kiss.

1. In our culture it is a warm handshake or even maybe a hug for a close brethren.

E. We are finally to the twenty-second commandment and we have obeyed it as we have read the entire epistle.

II Thessalonians Chapter 1

I. Background

A. II Thessalonians was written shortly after I Thessalonians probably A.D. 52-53. Remember I said that I Thessalonians was actually the first epistle that Paul wrote 52-53 A.D.

B. What does this tell you about what kind of Christians were in Thessalonica?

1. They were baby Christians and had lots of questions.
2. Why didn't they just get out their Bibles to get answers to their question?
3. The New Testament did not exist it was in the process of being written.

C. Paul is attempting to answer some of their questions in this second letter.

D. How do we know that the Rapture is an important?

1. It was evidently one of the first things Paul taught to them.

E. There was circulating in the Thessalonian Church a letter or report, purported to have come from Paul.

F. This report claimed that Christ had already come and had taken the church to Heaven and they were living in the judgements of the “Day of the Lord”. What is the Day of the Lord? It is the beginning of the Tribulation, God’s judgement of the World. We will talk more about this later.

G. Why did they think that the Christ had taken the Church to Heaven?

1. These people were being persecuted as we saw in I Thes.
2. They were suffering for the gospel’s sake, and it was easy for them to believe that they had entered the great tribulation period and that all of the believers (not only the dead) had missed the rapture).

H. Where did Christ tell His disciples that He was going?

1. He said that He was going to prepare for them a place so they could be with Him. (Who knows where that is located in the Bible?)

I. Paul attempts to allay their fears by writing II Thessalonians and telling them that the Rapture was still future.

1. He will teach them the apostasy, the man of sin, being caught up, etc.

J. Enough introduction let’s go to Chapter 1verse 1.

Chp 1:1 **1** Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

A. Often we just kind of passover words like these. What does Paul’s friendly greeting tell you about this church?

1. This is a greeting for a church which is

- theologically and spiritually sound.
2. What gives you a clue?
 3. They were in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 4. Who are these people Paul, Silas and Timothy?
 - a. The book of Acts tells us all about them.

B. These three men had endured a great deal for the sake of the gospel. Paul, Silas were in the prison at Philippi. Paul, Silas and Timothy had gone to Thessalonica together, and later Paul had to leave them. He waited for them in Athens and, when they did not come, he went on to Corinth where they finally met. It was at that time Paul wrote his first epistle to the Thessalonians to answer some of the questions that had come up since he had been there.

Chp 1:2 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. Grace and peace are two important words in the gospel.

1. If you have experienced the grace of God, that means you have been saved.
2. Read Eph. 2:8-9 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
 - a. By grace you are saved through faith, it is a gift of God lest anyone should boast.
3. This does not sound like predestination to me.
4. However, a lost sinner does not have any use for God so how does this happen?
 - a. Who wants to explain it?

5. Read John 6:40 ⁴⁰For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.
6. God gives us enough Grace to look to the Son and enough faith to believe. So you see it is God's Grace not us.
7. Let's talk about this. Is it different than what you have thought in the past?

Chp 1:3 ³We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.

A. Saving faith should produce growth and love for the brethren.

Chp 1:4 ⁴ so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, ⁵ *which* is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;

A. The Church will not go through the great tribulation, but we will go through the little tribulations.

1. How does the Lord use tribulations?
2. Sometimes it is a way for the Lord to discipline His children or teach them.

B. Patience is an interesting word. The Greek word translated by the English word patience has the literal meaning of "standing under."

1. What do you think Paul is saying?

2. The person who is patient is able to stay under, and keep carrying the load they endure.

3. Read I Peter 4:12-19 **12** Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; **13** but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. **14** If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.[a] On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. **15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. **16** Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.[b] **17** For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? **18** Now " *If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?*"[c] **19** Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Chp 1:6 **6** since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, **7** and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

A. While the judgment of the wicked begins with verse eight this is certainly the introduction to it.

1. Paul is suggesting the question "Is there unrighteousness with God?" The answer is no.

2. Whatever God does is absolutely right He can do no wrong.
3. God is even righteous in sending the great tribulation. It is a judgement.

B. Have you ever asked yourself why do some of the wicked get away with being bad. Also, why do the ungodly prosper?

1. We are going to find out as we move forward.

Chp 1:7-9 ⁷ and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

A. The Word of God actually says very little about heaven and even less about the condition of the lost.

1. One commentator suggested that Heaven is so wonderful that we could not comprehend it and Hell is so terrible that the Holy Spirit had drawn a veil over them.

B. When God judges, He does not do it in a vindictive manner. He does it to vindicate His righteousness and His holiness.

C. Christ said more about Hell than did anyone else. Hell is an awful reality.

D. What has to happen before God's Judgement of the Earth starts?

1. The answer is the Rapture.
2. Why? The "Day of the Lord" God's judgment

- starts when the Holy Spirit is removed.
3. How does the Holy Spirit get removed?
 4. The Holy Spirit indwells believers and the Rapture removes them from the Earth.
 5. Satan will not have the Holy Spirit here to restrain him. God will use Satan in some of the destruction and judgement.
- E. Who will be the first unbelievers to be judged?
1. The first unbelievers to be judged will be those people that are left on the Earth after to Rapture.
 2. But you might ask won't there be church goers and good people among those that did not get Raptured?
 3. There are only two kinds of persons believers and nonbelievers. All nonbelievers will get judged and end up in Hell.
- F. Everyone that enters the Tribulation will be nonbelievers. Will anyone believe during the tribulation?
1. Let's read Chapter 7 of Revelation

The Sealed of Israel

¹ After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel *were* sealed:

⁵ of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand *were* sealed;[a]

of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand *were* sealed;
6 of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand *were* sealed;
7 of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand *were* sealed;
8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand *were* sealed.

A Multitude from the Great Tribulation

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: " Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever Amen."

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir,^[b] you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters.^[c] And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

G. There will be 144,000 Jews and a great multitude of believers so great that they had trouble numbering them.

!. Why do you think these people believed? Many of them were people that believers had witness to before the rapture. It took the Rapture before they put together your witnessing and with believing.

2. See how important it is for you to witness.

3. How long does the Tribulation Judgement last?

a. Seven years.

4. God uses Satan's destruction and His own destruction (this is discussed in Revelation).

H. What happens when Christ comes back to Earth?

1. Read Matt. 24:29-30²⁹ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

2. Also, read Revelation 19:11-21 11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had[a] a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean,[b] followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp[c] sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

The Beast and His Armies Defeated

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God,[d] 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free[e] and slave, both small and great."

19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the

beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

3. Read II Thess 2:8 ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

4. Okay, we have only believers left on the Earth as Christ sets up His Kingdom.

5. Where are all the unbelievers that were killed during the Tribulation and at Christ's return to Earth?

6. Remember when we studied about Paradise and Hades?

7. Who is in Paradise today? Nobody. Jesus took all the believers to Heaven just after He was crucified. We just finished reading that the multitude that believed during the Tribulation and were killed were in Heaven.

8. So where are the unbelievers? They are in Hades
a. How long will they be in Hades?
b. Until the Great White Throne Judgement.

I. So far God has sent to Hades all unbelievers that lived during the Tribulation.

1. Will God judge these people? Yes, at the Great White Throne Judgement.

J. What about all the unbelievers that ever lived are they off the hook because they were not living during

the Tribulation?

1. No, every unbeliever that ever lived will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgement.

K. Let's read Rev 20 that starts just after Christ's return to Earth. Rev 20 ¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

The Saints Reign with Christ 1000 Years

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I* saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a ^[a] thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth,

Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where [b] the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The Great White Throne Judgment

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, [c] and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [d] 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

A. Christ rules the Earth for 1000 years while Satan is bound.

1. Satan is let lose and lots of people join him to try and over throw Christ.
2. Who are these people I thought that all the unbelievers were killed when Christ returned?
3. They are children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc. who did not like Christ's strict

rules.

B. Let's look at the Great White Throne Judgement.

1. What does it say in verse 15? Anyone whose name did not appear in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire (this is spiritual death).
2. How does a person get their name written in the Book of Life? How do you get everlasting life? Believe on Jesus.

C. Therefore, the people being judged at the Great White Throne are lost because they are unbelievers.

1. You will notice that God's Grace is so great that he is even fair to people that have rejected the cruel death of his Son Jesus.
2. What do you see that God does for these unbelievers?
3. His punishment for them in Hell is in accordance with their works while they lived.
4. As I understand it someone like Hitler whose works are very bad will be judged more severely.
5. Those people that live a good moral life judgement will be less severe.
6. They will all be in Hell and separated from God forever.

D. Any question?

Chp 1:10 o when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

A. The coming of Christ to the Earth in Judgment will justify the believers who have put their trust in Jesus, and it will glorify the Saviour. Did you know that you are

a sweet fragrance to God?

Chp 1:11-12 ¹¹ Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹² that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A. Is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ being glorified in you? Do your friends even know that you are a believer?
- B. Being up front where people see what you are doing may not be as important to God as a person who has been flat on their back or in a hospital--yet has a radiant testimony for Christ.

II Thessalonians Chapter 1

I. Background

A. II Thessalonians was written shortly after I Thessalonians probably A.D. 52-53. Remember I said that I Thessalonians was actually the first epistle that Paul wrote 52-53 A.D.

B. What does this tell you about what kind of Christians were in Thessalonica?

1. They were baby Christians and had lots of questions.
2. Why didn't they just get out their Bibles to get answers to their question?
3. The New Testament did not exist it was in the process of being written.

C. Paul is attempting to answer some of their questions in this second letter.

D. How do we know that the Rapture is an important?

1. It was evidently one of the first things Paul taught to them.

E. There was circulating in the Thessalonian Church a letter or report, purported to have come from Paul.

F. This report claimed that Christ had already come and had taken the church to Heaven and they were living in the judgements of the "Day of the Lord". What is the Day of the Lord? It is the beginning of the Tribulation, God's judgement of the World. We will talk more about this later.

G. Why did they think that the Christ had taken the Church to Heaven?

1. These people were being persecuted as we saw in I Thes.
2. They were suffering for the Gospel's sake, and it was easy for them to believe that they had entered the great

tribulation period and that all of the believers (not only the dead) had missed the Rapture).

H. Where did Christ tell His disciples that He was going?

1. He said that He was going to prepare for them a place so they could be with Him. (Who knows where that is located in the Bible?)

I. Paul attempts to allay their fears by writing II Thessalonians and telling them that the Rapture was still future.

1. He will teach them about the apostasy, the man of sin, being caught up, etc.

J. Enough introduction let's go to Chapter 1verse 1.

Chp 1:1 **1** Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

A. Often we just kind of passover words like these. What does Paul's friendly greeting tell you about this church?

1. This is a greeting for a church which is theologically and spiritually sound.
2. What gives you a clue?
3. They were in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Who are these people Paul, Silas and Timothy?
 - a. The book of Acts tells us all about them.

B. These three men had endured a great deal for the sake of the gospel. Paul, Silas were in the prison at Philippi. Paul, Silas and Timothy had gone to Thessalonica together, and later Paul had to leave them. He waited for them in Athens and, when they did

not come, he went on to Corinth where they finally met. It was at that time Paul wrote his first epistle to the Thessalonians to answer some of the questions that had come up since he had been there.

Chp 1:2 ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. Grace and peace are two important words in the gospel.

1. If you have experienced the grace of God, that means you have been saved.
2. Read Eph. 2:8-9 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.
 - a. By grace you are saved through faith, it is a gift of God lest anyone should boast.
3. However, a lost sinner does not have any use for God so how does this happen?
 - a. Who wants to explain it?
4. Read John 6:40 ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.
5. God gives us enough Grace to look to the Son and enough faith to believe. So you see it is God's Grace not us. We bring nothing.
6. Let's talk about this. Is it different than what you have thought in the past?

Chp 1:3 ³ We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for

each other is increasing.

A. Saving faith should produce growth and love for the brethren.

Chp 1:4 ⁴ so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, ⁵ *which* is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer;

A. The Church will not go through the great tribulation, but we will go through the little tribulations.

1. How does the Lord use tribulations?

2. Sometimes it is a way for the Lord to discipline His children or teach them.

B. Patience is an interesting word. The Greek word translated by the English word patience has the literal meaning of "standing under."

1. What do you think Paul is saying?

2. The person who is patient is able to stay under, and keep carrying the load they endure.

3. Read I Peter 4:12-19 ¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.^[a] On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an

evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. **16** Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.[b]

17 For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? **18** Now " *If the righteous one is scarcely saved,*

Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"[c]

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls *to Him* in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Chp 1:6 **6** since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, **7** and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,

A. Paul is suggesting the question "Is there unrighteousness with God?" The answer is no.

1. Whatever God does is absolutely right He can do no wrong.
2. God is even righteous in sending the great tribulation. It is a judgement.

B. Have you ever asked yourself why do some of the wicked get away with being bad. Also, why do the ungodly prosper and will there be a pay day?

1. We are going to find out as we move forward.

Chp 1:7-9 **7** and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels **8** in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** These shall

be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

A. The Word of God actually says very little about heaven and even less about the condition of the lost.

1. One commentator suggested that Heaven is so wonderful that we could not comprehend it and Hell is so terrible that the Holy Spirit had drawn a veil over it.

B. When God judges, He does not do it in a vindictive manner. He does it to vindicate His righteousness and His holiness.

C. Christ said more about Hell than did anyone else. Hell is an awful reality.

D. What has to happen before God's Judgement of the Earth starts?

1. The answer is the Rapture.
2. Why? The "Day of the Lord" God's judgment starts after the Holy Spirit is removed.
3. How does the Holy Spirit get removed?
4. The Holy Spirit indwells believers and the Rapture removes them from the Earth.
5. Satan will not have the Holy Spirit here to restrain him. God will use Satan in some of the destruction and judgement.

E. Who will be the first unbelievers to be judged?

1. The first unbelievers to be judged will be those people that are left on the Earth after the Rapture because they will enter the Great Tribulation.
2. But you might ask won't there be churchgoers and good people among those that did not get

Raptured?

3. There are only two kinds of persons believers and nonbelievers. All nonbelievers will suffer and get judged and eventually end up in Hell.

F. Everyone that enters the Tribulation will be nonbelievers. Will anyone believe during the tribulation?

1. Let's read Chapter 7 of Revelation for the answer

The Sealed of Israel

¹ After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, ³ saying, "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." ⁴ And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel *were* sealed:

⁵ of the tribe of Judah twelve thousand *were* sealed; [\[a\]](#)

of the tribe of Reuben twelve thousand *were* sealed;

of the tribe of Gad twelve thousand *were* sealed;

⁶ of the tribe of Asher twelve thousand *were* sealed;

of the tribe of Naphtali twelve thousand *were* sealed;

of the tribe of Manasseh twelve thousand *were* sealed;

⁷ of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand *were* sealed;

of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand *were*
sealed;
8 of the tribe of Zebulun twelve thousand *were*
sealed;
of the tribe of Joseph twelve thousand *were* sealed;
of the tribe of Benjamin twelve thousand *were*
sealed.

A Multitude from the Great Tribulation

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying: " Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever Amen."

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir,^[b] you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger

anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters.^[c] And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

G. There will be 144,000 believing Jews and a great multitude of believers so great that they had trouble numbering them.

- !. Why do you think these people believed? Many of them were people that believers had witness to before the Rapture. It took the Rapture before they put together your witnessing and with believing.
2. See how important it is for you to witness.
3. How long does the Tribulation Judgement last?
 - a. Seven years.
4. God uses Satan’s destruction and His own destruction (this is discussed in Revelation).

H. What happens when Christ comes back to Earth to stop the Tribulation?

1. Read Matt. 24:29-30²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

2. Also, read Revelation 19:11-21 ¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes

were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had[a] a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean,[b] followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp[c] sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

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3. Read II Thess 2:8 & And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

4. Okay, we have only believers left on the Earth as Christ sets up His Kingdom.

5. Where are all the unbelievers that were killed during the Tribulation and at Christ's return to Earth?

6. Do you remember hearing about Paradise and Hades?

7. Before the Cross the believers that died their soul went to Paradise and the unbelievers souls went to Hades.

7. Who is in Paradise today? Nobody. Jesus took all the believers to Heaven just after He was crucified. We just finished reading that the multitude that believed during the Tribulation and were killed were in Heaven.

8. So where are the unbelievers? They are still in Hades

a. How long will they be in Hades?

b. Until the Great White Throne Judgement.

c. We will read all about it in a few minutes.

I. So far God has sent to Hades all unbelievers that lived during the Tribulation.

1. Will God judge these people? Yes, at the Great White Throne Judgement.

J. What about all the unbelievers that ever lived are they off the hook because they were not living during the Tribulation?

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A. Christ rules the Earth for 1000 years while Satan is bound.

1. Satan is let lose and lots of people join him to try and over throw Christ.
2. Who are these people I thought that all the unbelievers were killed when Christ returned?
3. They are great grandchildren, etc. who did not

like Christ's strict rules. The liberals of that day.

B. Let's look at the Great White Throne Judgement.

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A. Is the name of our Lord Jesus Christ being glorified in you? Do your friends even know that you are a believer?

B. Even a person may be flat on their back or in a hospital--yet they can have a radiant testimony for Christ. Do you know people like this?

II Thessalonians Chapter 3

Chp 3:1-2 ¹ Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified, just as *it is* with you, ² and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

A. All believers can pray.

B. What enables the believer to walk in this world?

1. He is saying here that the Word of God enables the believer to walk before the wicked world. The Word establishes a believer in his walk.

C. Do you pray for your church and your pastor (s)?

Chp 3:3-5 ³ But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard *you* from the evil one. ⁴ And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. ⁵ Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

A. This Thessalonian church had a wonderful testimony, and Paul believed they would continue to maintain that testimony.

B. What are some things that involve the patience of Christ?

1. Answers to prayers.
2. The Rapture. Waiting for the last Christian to believe.
3. How believers live their lives.

Chp 3:6-9 6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he^[a] received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, 9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

A. What do you think Paul is commanding them to do?

1. We are to withdraw from the disorderly.
2. We are to witness to them but we are not to fraternize on their level.
3. Paul gave himself as an example as he was doing lots of witnessing.

B. You have heard the saying that birds of a feather flock together. Paul seems to be suggesting in verses 6 & 7 that you will be like the crowd you run around with.

1. Believers must be very careful about the company they keep and and with whom they associate.
2. The believers in Thessalonica were walking in a right relationship to the Lord Jesus and they were being persecuted for it.

C. How did Paul support himself when he was in Thessalonica and Corinth?

1. He was a tent maker.
2. What is Paul telling them in verse 9?
3. Paul is saying that as an apostle who had led

them to the Lord and established a church among them he had the right, the authority, to claim an offering.

D. You should be busy for the Lord in some phase of His work.

!. Think of it this way--You should be putting out a few seeds of the Word of God in the field of the world so that they might bring forth a harvest.

Chp 3:10-16 **10** For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. **11** For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. **12** Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

13 But *as for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good. **14** And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. **15** Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

A. This is pretty strong stuff especially verses 14 & 15.

Chp 3:16-18

Benediction

16 Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all.

17 The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all.
Amen.

