

COMMENTARY

I THESSALONIANS 1

vs. 1-10:

Paul informs the Christians of Thessalonica that they are constantly in his thoughts and prayers. Their commitment and endurance for Christ (produced through their faith, love and hope) are known to Paul.

There was no doubt that these Christians had been accepted by God, for the Holy Spirits working. Paul had been an example to them and they became imitators of him. Their faithfulness (after turning from idols to the living and true God), in the face of persecution, was a testimony to all who heard of them.

COMMENTARY

I THESSALONIANS 2

vs. 1-16:

Paul states that his intentions were entirely pure and that he continued preaching to them despite the fact that he had faced persecution previously and was now facing opposition. He was speaking the message of God, for God!

He reminds them of their faithful service to the Christians there, even to the point of supporting themselves, rather than asking the Christians to fulfill that task. Paul treated the Thessalonians as he would have treated his own children. He built up and encouraged, taught and corrected, and comforted them as the situation demanded.

Paul is proud of them because they accepted the message of God, as coming from God. They wholly committed themselves to the work, in spite of opposition. Paul also reminds them that those opposing will be punished in the end!

vs. 17-20:

Paul expresses his great desire to see them but how he was prevented through the work of Satan. Paul reminds them of the joy that their lives in Christ, bring to him.

I THESSALONIANS 3

vs. 1- 5:

Paul was so anxious to see and hear about them, that he finally sent Timothy to them. Timothy was to encourage them and to prevent anyone from giving up because of persecution. Paul was hoping to hear back from them, that everything was alright and that nobody had succumbed to the tempter.

vs. 6-13:

Timothy had just arrived and gave glowing reports on the progress and growth of the Thessalonians. Paul found great encouragement and strength in this report. Now he seeks to see them all the more, that they might be mutually supportive. Paul is also praying that they will continue to grow in love and be strengthened, so that they will be ready when Jesus returns.

I THESSALONIANS 4

vs. 1-12:

Paul further instructs them to live holy and pure lives in the sight of God. They are to have complete control over their bodies and they should treat one another fairly. God will punish those who fail to strive to bring their bodies under control.

Paul felt that the Thessalonians had no need to hear about the need for loving others, for they were already examples to others in this area. They were to simply be faithful on the job and have such complete control that they will be a testimony to others.

vs. 13-18:

Paul doesn't want the Thessalonians to grieve at the death of a loved one. He reminds them of the promise of the resurrection and how those who die now in Christ, will be re-united with us at the sudden coming of Christ; and we shall dwell together with God forever! They were to encourage and remind one another of this hope.

I THESSALONIANS 5

vs. 1-11:

Paul teaches them that there is no way to know when Christ will come, for it will be a surprise to all; and some will be caught unprepared. He warns them to be prepared at all times and not give into sin. God's goal for us is salvation so that we might have life, and we need to be constantly prepared so that we don't lose out. We need to encourage and remind one another of this.

vs. 12-28:

Paul instructs them to respect those Christians who are working hard and overseeing the Church. They are to help the weaker brother to grow and to make sure that love is the rule.

Their attitude towards life is to be one of joy and thanks, praying at all times, according to God's will.

They are to respect and follow the teachings of God. They are to evaluate the teachings of each individual and determine if they are from God, or not.

Paul prays that God will watch over and keep them. He asks for their prayers and instructs them to accept one another in love.

I THESSALONIANS 1

1. Who was writing to the Thessalonians?
2. What did they mention in their prayers?
3. What 3 things did they remember about the Thessalonians?
4. What had brought these 3 things into being?
5. Who had chosen the Thessalonians?
6. How had the gospel come to them?
7. What had the Thessalonians become in vs. 6?
8. What had they welcomed with joy?
9. Who were the Thessalonians models for?
10. What had rung out from the Thessalonians?
11. What did they turn to after leaving their idols?
12. What were they waiting for?

BONUS:

1. How do faith, love and hope produce: work, labor and endurance?
Paul had taught.
2. How do we influence and encourage others?
3. What "idols" did you leave to serve God?

STUDY GUIDE

I THESSALONIANS 2:

1. What did Paul know, was not a failure?
2. What did Paul dare to do, with the help of God?
3. How did Paul speak?
4. Who was Paul trying to please?
5. What was Paul not looking for, from men?
6. What did Paul share with them?
7. Why did Paul work day and night?
8. What did Paul do for them? (see vs. 12)
9. How did they accept the word of God?
10. What did Paul make every effort to do?
11. Who prevented Paul from coming?
12. What did Paul consider to be his glory and joy?

BONUS:

1. How can Christians share the love that Paul had for the church?
2. Does everyone receive the word of God, as the word of God?
Explain.
3. How can Satan prevent us from getting the work done if we really want to?

Study Guide

I THESSALONIANS 3:

1. Where was Paul when he sent Timothy?
2. Why did he send Timothy?
3. What had Paul kept telling them, while he was with them?
4. What was Paul afraid of?
5. What did Timothy bring good news about?
6. What had this news done for Paul, amidst his distress?
7. Why did Paul really live?
8. What did Paul have because of them? (see vs. 9)
9. What did Paul seek to provide for them?
10. What did Paul want God to clear the way for?
11. What did Paul want the Lord to increase and overflow?
12. Why did he want God to strengthen their hearts?

BONUS

1. What affect does persecution produce?
2. How does news from the Church in other places affect us? How should it affect us?
3. What does it mean to "strengthen your heart"?

STUDY GUIDE

I THESSALONIANS 4:

1. What had Paul instructed them to do?
2. What were they to avoid?
3. How are we to learn to control our own bodies?
4. Who will the Lord punish?
5. How did God call us to live?
6. What had they been taught by God?
7. Who did they love?
8. What was their daily life to win?
9. What did Paul not want them to be or to do?
10. Who will God bring with Jesus?
11. What will happen to those who are still alive?
12. What are we to do with these words?

BONUS:

1. How do Christians need to learn to please God, today?
2. Explain how verse 11 and 12 can help us.
3. How should Christians handle the passing of a loved one?

STUDY GUIDE

I THESSALONIANS 5:

1. How will the day of the Lord, come?
2. Why should this day not surprise Them, like a thief?
3. What are we to be, according to verse 6?
4. What should we do, since we belong to the day?
5. What did God appoint us to receive?
6. Why did He die for us?
7. What does verse 11 tell us to do, because of these truths?
8. Who are they to respect?
9. What are they to do for the idle, timid and weak?
10. Why are we to always give thanks?
11. What are we to hold onto?
12. What were they to do with this letter?

BONUS:

1. How should Christians view the second coming of Christ?
2. How are we to treat the leadership in the local church?
3. How can we give thanks in all circumstances?