

"GROWING BEFORE GOING"
WEEK ONE

Introduction

Welcome to New Believers Part Two! We are excited that the Spirit of God is continuing to do a work in your heart and leading you into further study of God's Word. It is our prayer that you will be blessed by this study, grow to love Jesus in a deeper way, and become more like Him each day.

Your first New Believers class emphasized an overview of basic Bible doctrine in order to give you a solid footing for your faith in the "more sure Word of God". Part Two is a study in the New Testament book of 1 Thessalonians that will equip you to study the Word of God for yourself and be able to take in the richness of the Word of God on a regular basis.

We have entitled the class "Growing Before Going". The title shows the desire of our time together in this study: to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, and to live with the hope of Jesus' soon return for us!

Theme

One of the themes of 1 Thessalonians is that of hope. Hope is something common to all of our lives. Webster's Dictionary defines it as "a desire for some good, accompanied with at least a slight expectation of obtaining it". Hope requires us to look at the future and its possibilities, and causes us to examine our real beliefs and desires. Think about your own life before you came to know and love Jesus. What were you putting your hope in? What "good" did you desire? What were you expecting to bring you peace, or happiness, or purpose?

Biblical hope is something quite entirely different than worldly hope. In fact, there is only one letter difference from "hope" and "hype". Most of what the world can offer for hope is really nothing more than hype which quickly fades away. The word "hope" appears four times in 1 Thessalonians, and from each of these verses we learn what it means to hope as a Christian.

Hope's OBJECT (1:3) - _____

Hope's DESTINY (2:19) - _____

Hope's BLESSING (4:13) - _____

Hope's PROTECTION (5:8) - _____

Other Scriptures: Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 13:13, Colossians 1:27

Write out your own definition of hope:

Hope is patient, disciplined, confident waiting for and expectation of the Lord as our Savior; it is impatient expectancy; it involves overcoming with Jesus while waiting for His appearing.

HOMEWORK: Using your new understanding of hope, make an acronym for the word and come back next week ready to share! (e.g. - JOY = Jesus, Others, You)

**"GROWING BEFORE GOING"
WEEK TWO**

This week we will be learning the basis of Inductive Bible Study as we prepare for our study in 1 Thessalonians.

Please refer to the "Personal Bible Study Chart" to compare the three basic forms of Bible literature.

The Three Steps of Inductive Bible Study

1. **OBSERVATION:** The first and key step is to find the clear and simple facts. What does it say? There is no guesswork here.
 - a. Who is involved?
 - b. What has happened?
 - c. When did this occur?
 - d. What was said?
 - e. Who said it and to whom was it said?

2. **INTERPRETATION:** The second step is to understand the facts, to determine what they mean.
 - a. Why did the author write this?
 - b. What did it mean to the people he was writing?
 - c. How can this be interpreted today?

Practical Rules for Interpretation:

1. The plain and simple meaning is usually the right one. (2 Cor 11:3)
2. One verse of Scripture cannot be interpreted apart from the context in which it is found. (Matt 4:5-7)
3. Scripture always interprets and clarifies other Scripture. (Romans 9:24-29)
4. Always interpret Scripture literally, following the normal rules of grammar, speech and context.
5. The New Testament takes precedence over the Old Testament. (Matt 5:17, Col 2:16-17)
6. That which is clearly stated takes precedence over what is implied or doubtful in Scripture. (John 7:38-39)
7. Define all words that are unclear.
8. Pray fervently and believing for God's insights and understanding. (John 14:26)

APPLICATION: The last step involves taking the meaning of the facts you have observed and applying these to your life practically. It is very important to ask for the help of the Holy Spirit here.

Is there an example I should follow?
Is there a sin I should forsake?
Is there an error I should avoid?
Is there a promise I should believe?

Is there a command I should obey?
How will I make these changes?
What specific actions will I now take?

HOMEWORK: Read Acts 17:1-10 & 1 Thessalonians this week.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY CHART

FORMS	Story Forms (Narrative)	Instructional & Exhortive Forms (Epistles)	Poetic, Parables, Prophetic Revelation Forms
Examples	History account of events, such as: Gospels, Acts, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, etc. and records of the Old Testament Kings.	Logical development of a subject. Paul's letters - Galatians, Romans, Titus, etc. The writings of Peter, John, James, and some accounts of Jesus' teachings.	The arrangement of ideas into patterns. They used symbols and analogies to express the idea, such as: Psalms, Song of Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, & the Parables of Jesus, etc.
Main Features of the Forms	People, places, events, & emotions	Ideas, words, verbs, subjects, objects, and arrangements of the passages.	Look for symbolism, parallels, analogies, etc. Picture language
Basic Tools: For Observing The Passage	Ask: Who? What? When? Where? How? Retell the event. Find the relationship between characters. Try to feel the emotions. Place yourself in the shoes of each character. What do you see? feel? think?	Outline the development of ideas in the passages. Note repeated words! Look for: comparisons contrasts Transition words such as: therefore in order that because for since Every word becomes important in understanding the whole.	Hebrew poets used parallelism, one idea said two different ways. A proverb is a type of statement where human behavior is compared to something in nature. Ex. Proverbs 5:3 A Parable is an art form. Jesus used to deliberately hide the truth from those who did not want to hear. Prophetic revelation tells divinely-inspired revelations of future and present events.

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY CHART

<p>BASIC TOOLS: FOR INTERPRETATION</p>	<p><u>Tools for interpretation are the same for all three forms.</u></p> <p>It is an attempt to determine what the passage meant to the people who originally hear it.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does the author mean to make him write this way? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> see feel think 2. Why does he write this? 3. What would it mean to the people who heard it in biblical time and culture? <p style="margin-left: 40px;">There are some tools that are good for instructional and exhortive forms.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. What is the reason for the idea? b. Why did the author use it? c. Could he have used another word? d. What does the idea mean? e. What is the relationship of this idea to events before following ideas? f. Context is most important.
<p>BASIC TOOLS: FOR APPLICATION</p>	<p><u>Tools for application are the same for all three forms.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Appeal to Holy Spirit for teaching. 1 Cor. 2:9-16 2. Apply the main point to your life, like: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Is there an example I/We should follow? a sin I/We should forsake? an error I/We should avoid? a promise I/We should claim? a command I/We should obey?</p> 3. So what? <p style="margin-left: 40px;">What do I plan to do about it? What difference will this make in my life? What specific plans can I make? Be specific - give practical examples.</p>

POETIC/PARABLES/REVELATION FORMS

PSALM 16

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.
2 O my soul, you have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You" -
3 And to the saints who are on the earth, "They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight."
4 Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god; Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, Nor take up their names on my lips.
5 You, O LORD, are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot.
6 The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.
7 I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.
8 I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.
9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope.
10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.
11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

PROVERBS 10:28

- 28 The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish.

PROVERBS 13:12

- 12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

REVELATION 5:1-10

- 1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.
2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"
3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.
4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.
5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."
6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.
7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.
8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

- 9 And they sang a new song, saying:
"You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God

by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

STORY FORMS (NARRATIVE)

Acts 26:1-11

- 1 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself:
- 2 "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews,
- 3 "especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently.
- 4 "My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know.
- 5 "They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.
- 6 "And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers.
- 7 "To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews.
- 8 "Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?
- 9 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- 10 "This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when there were put to death, I cast my vote against them.
- 11 "And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

INSTRUCTIONAL & NARRATIVE FORMS (EPISTLES)

1 PETER 1:3-9

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
- 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
- 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
- 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
- 9 receiving the end of your faith - the salvation of your souls.

<p>"GROWING BEFORE GOING" WEEK THREE</p>
--

As we begin, let's review last week's lesson.

Write in the Three Steps of Inductive Bible Study, and after each, write a short phrase of sample question that describes each:

This week we will be looking at the background of 1 Thessalonians. We want to discover all we can about this city, its people and Paul's ministry to it. This will help us in our interpretation of the letter.

Let's meet the Thessalonians:

LOCATION: Thessalonica was a port city of Greece, 500 miles north of Athens.

It was the largest and most important city in Macedonia, and capital of that Roman province.

It was a transportation hub:

Had a large harbor.

A main stop on the Roman military road connecting east and west.

Situated within sight of Mt. Olympus, home of the _____.

A modern city is existing there to this day.

CULTURE:

Politically: The seat of the Roman Governor of Macedonia. Also a "free city," meaning the citizens could handle their own internal affairs without going to Rome.

Socially: Gradually adopted Roman laws, customs, and ways; much like a "mini-Rome."

Religiously: Popular beliefs of the day included the following:

1. There is no life after death, & nothing to hope for.
2. Whatever god or goddess was worshipped did not love the worshipper personally.
3. There was no common sharing among fellow worshippers (in pagan religions).
4. A mixed teaching on morality: some stressed strict adherence to high moral standards, but without any resource to become righteous; others encouraged immorality and practiced Temple prostitution.

DATE OF WRITING: Paul's first letter to them was probably written around AD 50-51, almost 20 years after Christ's death and resurrection. It was the earliest of Paul's letters, and predates the Gospels.

NOTE: The above information is usually referred to as "background information" about a book of the Bible. It can be obtained from a book like Halley's Bible Handbook, or Bible Dictionary like The New Bible Dictionary, under the listing "Thessalonica" or "Thessalonians, First".

Acts 17:1-10 provides the story of the "birth" of this church.

ACTS 17:1-10

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

<p>Where did Paul teach? (vv.1-2)</p> <p>How long was he there? (v.2)</p> <p>What was the content of his teaching? (v.3)</p> <p>Who responded to the Gospel? (v.4)</p> <p>Who did not respond? (v.5)</p> <p>Where did they go to arrest Paul? (vv.5-6)</p> <p>Of what was Paul accused in verse 6?</p> <p>What else were the Christians accused of in verse 7?</p> <p>Where did Paul go from Thessalonica? (v.10)</p>	<p>1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.</p> <p>2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,</p> <p>3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ."</p> <p>4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas.</p> <p>5 But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.</p> <p>6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too."</p> <p>7 "Jason has harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another king - Jesus."</p> <p>8 And they troubled the crowd and the rulers of the city when they heard these things.</p> <p>9 So when they had taken security from Jason and the rest, they let them go.</p> <p>10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.</p>	
---	---	--

Now let's look at the Greeting of Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

Who wrote the letter?	1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:	
To whom was it written?	Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.	
What two qualities does Paul desire for the church?		
Where does peace come from?		What is peace?

Turn to Numbers 6:23-24. The Israelite priests were commanded to bless the people with the following blessing:

- 23 Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel, say to them,
- 24 The LORD bless you, and keep you:
- 25 The LORD make his face shine upon you, and be **gracious** to you:
- 26 The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you **peace**.

God's desire is for his people to experience _____ & _____. Paul certainly would have been familiar with this prayer. He was an expert in the Old Testament (see Philippians 3:4-6). He came to receive and experience these blessings in His own life through knowing Jesus.

Grace - God's unmerited favor (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Peace - Being in right relationship with God, and man (Ephesians 2:14-22)

How has God's unmerited favor been shown to you in your life?

What peace has come into your life?

Homework: Read 1 Thessalonians. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 1:9.

"GROWING BEFORE GOING"
WEEK FOUR

We want to begin tonight by taking opportunity to hear testimonies of the **grace** and **peace** that God has brought to you in your life.

Below you will find a breakdown of the entire book of 1st Thessalonians. It is based on major sections of thought in Paul's letter, and follows the paragraph divisions in most Bibles. In other words, where Paul changes topics or an emphasis of a topic, we make a division break. This is one way of getting the "big picture" of the book before examining its parts. We have left them blank so that you can create your own "titles" for each section as we work through the book.

1:1 _____

1:2-10 _____

2:1-12 _____

2:13-20 _____

3:1-13 _____

4:1-12 _____

4:13-18 _____

5:1-11 _____

5:12-28 _____

One other way to get the "big picture" of the book is to examine it doctrinally. That is, what major themes does Paul seem to emphasize in the entire letter? What truths that are foundational to the Christian life are taught by the author? What does he mention several times in the letter?

DOCTRINAL THEMES OF 1ST THESSALONIANS

The Trinity 1:1,5,6
The Holy Spirit 1:5-6; 4:8; 5:19
The Rapture 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:14-17; 5:23
Assurance of Salvation 1:5
Conversion/Repentance 1:8-9
Election 1:4
The Resurrection 4:14-18
Sanctification 4:3; 5:23
Satan 3:5
Suffering 1:6; 2:2; 3:3-4,7

On the next page we will begin our study of the first section of the letter, 1:1-10.

1 THESSALONIANS 1: 1-10

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

<p>What are the 3 qualities Paul remembered about them? (v.3)</p> <p>What did Paul know for certain about them? (v.4)</p> <p>What 4 things accompanied the Gospel message? (v.5)</p> <p>In what kind of circumstance was the Word received? (v.6)</p> <p>What inner quality was also present? (v.6)</p> <p>Where did their example spread? (v.7-8)</p> <p>What did the believers turn "to" and "from" in v.9?</p> <p>What 2 things occupied the lives of the believers? Hint: look for the word "to". (v9b-10)</p>	<p>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. 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. 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. 6 And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 8 For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.</p>	<p>work of faith - labor of love - patience of hope -</p> <p>"ELECTION" - see Eph. 1:4 Defn - When - Why -</p> <p>GOSPEL CAME IN: 1. (Rom 10:17) 2. (Rom 1:16) 3. (Acts 1:8) 4. (Coloss 2:2)</p> <p>"WAITING" (v.10) How does Romans 2:7 define waiting?</p> <p>Parable of 10 Virgins (Mt25) Who were the foolish? (v.3)</p> <p>Who were the wise? (v.4)</p> <p>What was the result? (v.10-12)</p> <p>What is Jesus' encouragement in v.13?</p>
--	---	--

APPLICATION

What **work** has faith produced in you? What **labor** has love produced? What **patience** has the hope of Christ's coming produced?

Knowing you are elect of God, what response do you have?

How might you be limiting God from using your witness in a powerful way as He did the new believers at Thessalonica?

Are there any "idols" you need to turn from in your life?

How might God want you to serve Him while you are waiting for His Son?

What promise is there for you to claim in Isaiah 40:31?

PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

Joy in Affliction 1:6

A Powerful Witness 1:7-8

Repentance Means Turning 1:9

Serve While Waiting 1:10

HOMEWORK: Read Acts 16:11-40. Continue reading 1st Thessalonians.

"GROWING BEFORE GOING"
WEEK FIVE

As we begin, reflect on this past week with the Lord. Was there a special work of faith, or labor of love, or extra measure of patience God brought forth in your life?

This week we will be studying 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12, and Paul's description of his ministry among the new believers there at Thessalonica.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

<p>Where did Paul's boldness come from to speak the Gospel? (v.2)</p> <p>What did <u>not</u> characterize Paul's ministry? (v.3)</p> <p>With what was Paul and his team "entrusted"? (v.4)</p> <p>What part of us does God test? (v.4)</p> <p>What else was <u>not</u> part of Paul's relationship with the new believers? (vv.5-6)</p>	<p>1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3 For our exhortation did not come from deceit or uncleanness, nor was it in guile.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness - God is witness.</p> <p>6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.</p>	<p>SPEECH: verse 3 How does Colossians 4:6 describe the believer's speech?</p> <p>What does it mean?</p> <p>What about Ephesians 4:31-32?</p> <p>TRUST: verse 4 How does Strong's define "trust"? (See next page)</p> <p>What do we learn from these verses about God's testing of the heart?</p> <p>Proverbs 17:3-</p> <p>Psalms 139: 23-24-</p>
---	--	---

USING STRONG'S CONCORDANCE

An "exhaustive concordance" is a book that is an alphabetical listing of all the words found in the Bible, with listings of references to the passages in which they occur in the Bible. ("Exhaustive" means it contains every word, not just selected words.)

There are two major concordances in use today, Strong's and Young's. We will be using Strong's King James Concordance. It lists words found in the Kings James Version of the Bible.

The concordance has three major sections:

The Main Concordance - An alphabetical listing of the words in English

A Hebrew Lexicon - A dictionary of Hebrew words

A Greek Lexicon - A dictionary of Greek words

WORD STUDY ON "TRUST"

1 Thessalonians 2:4

1. Look up the English word "trust" in Strong's as you would look it up in a dictionary.
2. Find the listing for our passage, 1 Thessalonians 2:4. Note the number given next to the word. __
3. Look up the number in the appropriate Lexicon.
If Old Testament, use the Hebrew Lexicon.
If New Testament, use the Greek Lexicon.
4. Write the Greek word referenced. _____
5. Write the English meaning of the word. _____
6. Go back to the original listing of the word in the concordance. Look through the New Testament uses of that word, and write down some other passages where the same Greek word is used. (Look for the same word number at the end of the listing.)

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

<p>What word picture does Paul use in verse 7 to describe his ministry to the believers?</p>	<p>7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.</p>	<p>GENTLE: verse 7 How is Jesus described in the following passages?</p>
<p>What did Paul impart to the Thessalonians? (v.8)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Isaiah 40:11 - Matt 11:29 -</p>
<p>How does Paul describe his ministry among the people? (v.9)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Gal 5:23 -</p>
<p>What did the believers witness about Paul's life? (v.10)</p>	<p>10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;</p>	<p>EXHORT: verse 11 How did Jesus exhort in these passages?</p>
<p>What three things did Paul do among the church? (v.11)</p>	<p>11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,</p>	<p>Matt 16:21-23- John 2:13-17-</p>
<p>What was Paul's desire for the believers? (v.12)</p>	<p>12 that you would have a walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.</p>	<p>WALK WORTHY: verse 12 What 3 things are involved in walking worthy in Colossians 1:10?</p>

THEMES

List all of the times Paul mentions the "Gospel" in verses 1-12. Why is this so important to him?

List all the ways Paul describes what he was or was not to the Thessalonian believers in verses 1-12.

Example: verse 2 - bold in God

APPLICATION

Is your speech characterized by any of the following?

error -

uncleanness -

deceit -

How does the fact that God sees your heart and tries (tests) it affect you communication with others?

Paul makes it clear that the Gospel message was weaved into his daily life while with the Thessalonians. If your actions are contrary to the Gospel, what is the result?

How do we live in order to be good stewards of our "entrustment" with the Gospel?

What kind of situation with another believer might require the "gentle mother" approach? the "exhorting, imploring father" approach?

Are you walking worthy as described in Colossians 1:10, as one who has been called into His kingdom?

Ask yourself these questions:

Is there anything in my life that is not pleasing to Him?

What fruit is the Spirit producing in my life?

Do I know God better this week than I did last week?

PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

Godly Speech 2:3

Godly Motives 2:5-7

Godly Witness 2:8-10

HOMEWORK: Look up the following three words from 1 Thessalonians 2:11 in Strong's Concordance:

WORD	STRGS.PG #	CROSS-REFS	MEANING	GREEK WD#
Exhorted				
Comforted				
Charged				

Note: To find cross-references, look for other verses where the same word number occurs **in the New Testament listings**.

Based on your study of these words, how would you describe Paul's involvement in the lives of the Thessalonian Christians? What was Paul's purpose for exhorting, comforting, and charging?

How should we as Christians follow Paul's example?

"GROWING BEFORE GOING"
WEEK SIX

Homework Review: You discovered some new insights into Paul's ministry with the Christians at Thessalonica from verses 11-12. How should we today follow Paul's example?

This week we will be looking at 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20, and getting practice in the class doing the first step of Inductive Bible Study - **Observation**. Work in groups to write observation questions for these verses.

1 Thessalonians 2:13-20

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

	<p>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.</p> <p>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 Jews,</p> <p>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,</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>What is the evidence that they received from God's Word? (v.13-14)</p> <p>"BELIEVE" (v.13) STR# -</p> <p>Meaning -</p> <p>Why did the Christians suffer? (v.14)</p> <p>What is the meaning of Gentile?</p>
--	---	---

"GROWING BEFORE GOING"
WEEK SIX -CON'T

1 Thessalonians 13-20

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

	<p>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.</p> <p>18 Therefore we wanted to come to you - even I, Paul, time and again - but Satan hindered us.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>20 For you are our glory and joy.</p>	<p>Why would Satan hinder Paul? (v.18)</p> <p>Compare 1 Thes. 1:3. Why would hope and joy be linked?</p>
--	---	---

APPLICATION

What is there in your life to give thanks to God for? What work has God done in another believer's life that you can give God thanks for?

How important is the Word of God to you? In a time of trial or suffering, do you turn to God's Word first or somewhere else? Note Job 23:12.

What comfort is it to you in time of spiritual conflict that other believers have suffered in similar ways? What happens if a believer stays isolated in times of battle?

What opposition does Satan throw your way to try to "hinder" your spiritual progress? How does God want us to respond?

What difference does the certainty of Christ's return make in our times of struggle?

PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

Receive the Word 2:13

Believe the Word 2:13

Follow the Word 2:14

Expect Opposition 2:18

Endure Trials with Hope 2:19-20

HOMEWORK: Read 1 Thessalonians 3. Do a Strong's word study on the word "stablish" or "establish" from verse 13. Write out some observation questions for 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Paul mentions two kinds of responses to God's Word in 1 Thessalonians 2:13: receiving it as the Word of God or receiving it as the word of man. Look at these passages and compare the responses to God's Word.

	WELCOME	UNWELCOME
ANTIOCH	Acts 13:42-44	Acts 13:50
ICONIUM	Acts 14:1,4	Acts 14:2,4
PHILIPPI	Acts 16:14-15, 27-34	Acts 16:20-22

"GROWING BEFORE GOING"
WEEK SEVEN

In the last two weeks we have seen Paul's ministry among the believers in Thessalonica. He ministered among them as a mother and a father. This week we will see his continued ministry to them although he was apart from them, in order that they might stand fast in the Lord and not lose hope.

We will begin by reviewing the observation questions you did for homework on 1 Thessalonians 3.

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 OBSERVATION		INTERPRETATION
<p>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. 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.</p>	<p>What does the word "establish" mean in verse 2?</p> <p>List some ways you can check its meaning:</p> <p>What were Timothy's 2 purposes in going back to Thessalonica? (v.2)</p> <p>Why did they need this?</p> <p>Who is the "tempter", and what is his mission? (v.5)</p>	

CONTEXT

CONTEXT - Refers to that which goes before and that which follows after.

TYPES

1. **Literary** - The paragraph of which a verse is a part, the section of which that paragraph is a part, and the book of which that section is a part.

2. **Historical** - When is this taking place? Where does this passage fit in history? What else was taking place in the world at this time?

3. **Cultural** - The unique customs, values, language and history of a certain people at a given time in history.
4. **Geographic** - Special attention to the terrain, weather patterns, topographic features of a location; also its distance from other places mentioned in the text. Pay attention to transportation routes, sizes of cities, layouts of the town, etc.
5. **Theological** - Where does this passage fit in the chronological unfolding of Scripture? What did this author know about God? What was the relationship of his readers to God? How much Scripture did the writer and his audience have access to?

Which one (or more) of the above contexts would help us in understanding 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5?

Turn to Acts 17:10. Where did Paul go when he left Thessalonica? _____

Look at Acts 17:14-16. Where did Paul go when he left Berea? _____

Where did he go next? (See Acts 18:1) _____

In Acts 18:5, who arrived and where were they coming from? _____

What major city is in this region? _____ (Hint: Check your map!)

This historic/geographic context study reveals the following chronology:

Paul is run out of Thessalonica and goes to Berea (Acts 17:10).

He is run out of Berea and goes to Athens and left Timothy & Silas in Berea (Acts 17:14).

Timothy & Silas arrived in Athens, and were sent by Paul back to Thessalonica (1 Thess 3:1-2).

Paul traveled to Corinth (Acts 18:1), and Timothy & Silas joined him there (Acts 18:5).

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

	<p>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 -</p> <p>7 therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.</p> <p>8 For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.</p> <p>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,</p> <p>10 night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?</p> <p>11 Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you.</p> <p>12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>According to verse 6, was Satan successful in his efforts? (cf.v.5)</p> <p>What fruit of the Spirit were evident among them?</p> <p>Rewrite verse 8 in your own words.</p> <p>PERFECT: verse 10 Strong's #2675 -</p> <p>The same word is used in Mark 1:19 to tell what James and John were doing in the boat:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>How does Paul's prayer in verse 12 relate to Mark 12:28-31?</p> <p>What is the "end" (goal) of this love in verse 13?</p> <p>In verse 13, what event is the motivation for holiness?</p>
--	---	--

APPLICATION

Why is it important for us to be established in our faith?

Paul said in verse three that their afflictions were "appointments." What do you learn about afflictions in the life of a believer from Philippians 1:29 and 1 Peter 4:12-16?

List below what you learned about Paul's prayer life from vv.9-13. What insights does this give you for your prayer life?

Paul prayed that their love would increase and abound until Jesus' return. What warning does Jesus give in Matthew 24:12? (Note what question Jesus is answering in Mt. 24:3.)

How do we prevent this from happening to our hearts until Jesus returns?

PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

Afflictions Grow Faith vv.3-4

Temptations Test Faith v.5

Prayer Redirects Faith vv.9-10

Love Redirects Faith vv.12-13

HOMEWORK:

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12.

Do Observation & Interpretation Questions, using the Personal Bible Study Chart from Week 2.

Study the word "Gentiles" in the following passages:

Acts 13:46; 15:7-9; Rom. 11:11,13; 1 Cor.12:2; Eph.4:17-19; 1 Thess 4:5

"GROWING BEFORE GOING" WEEK EIGHT

This week we will be focusing on Paul's emphasis in the passage on personal purity in the light of Jesus' return. Verse one provides several clues as to the start of a new section, and what is on Paul's heart.

"Finally" -

"urge/exhort" -

"how" -

"to walk/to please" -

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

	<p>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;</p> <p>2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.</p> <p>3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;</p> <p>4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,</p> <p>5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;</p> <p>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.</p> <p>7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.</p> <p>8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.</p>	
--	---	--

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

	<p>9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;</p> <p>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;</p> <p>11 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,</p> <p>12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.</p>	
--	---	--

DOCTRINAL STUDY

Paul says in verse three that the will of God involves our sanctification. If we don't know what sanctification means, we can't know the will of God for our lives. As we saw in Lesson 4, the book of 1st Thessalonians introduces us to many important doctrines. The word "doctrine" comes from the word "teach" and means simply that which has been taught. (New Believers Part 1 was for the most part a series of doctrinal studies teaching from the Bible on certain topics.)

We will start this doctrinal study with a word study of "Sanctification":

Strong's # -

Greek Word -

Definition -

Next, lets look at some Scriptures containing the word to get a clearer understanding of it. We will start in the Old Testament, because New Testament doctrines are based on Old Testament Scriptures.

What do you learn about "sanctification/sanctify" in each of these verses?

Old Testament

Leviticus 20:7-8:

Leviticus 27:14, 16, 17:

2 Chronicles 29:5, 15-16:

New Testament

John 17:17,19

1st Corinthians 6:11

Ephesians 5:26

Hebrews 10:10,14

1st Thessalonians 5:23-24

1st Peter 1:2

Based on what you have learned from the study so far, write your own definition of the word "sanctification":

A doctrinal study should also consider the *context* of the original passage (1st Thess.4).

What does Paul equate "sanctification" with in 1st Thessalonians 4:3? _____
What else is involved in sanctification in verses 4-6?

INTERPRETATION

What is the meaning of the word "vessel" in v.4?

Strong's # 4632:

2 Timothy 2:21-

1st Peter 3:7-

Which do you think best fits here? (Hint: check the context)

What is the *contrast* between verses 4 & 5?

What is the opposite of holiness in verse 7?

Why do you think Paul included a reminder of the presence of the Holy Spirit in v.8?

Paul shares three qualities in v.11 that he urged the believers to follow after. List them below. Now look at the "works of the flesh" listed in Galatians 5:19-21. Write those that are the opposite of the qualities below:

<u>Paul's Qualities</u>	<u>Opposite Works of the Flesh</u>
1.	
2.	
3.	

For further doctrinal study, a good beginning book is The Great Doctrines of the Bible by William Evans.

APPLICATION

If a Christian friend were to ask you what the will of God is for his life, what would you say?

Which best describes your life today, 1st Thess. 4:3 or 4:4? Is there anything unclean in your life today?

Why is it important to get rid of any uncleanness? (See Romans 6:19-22 & 1 Cor. 6:18-20)

According to 1st Thess.4:12, who is watching how we handle our lives as Christians? What do the following verses say about work?

1 Timothy 5:8

Ephesians 4:28

2 Thessalonians 3:10

PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

Walk in Holiness - vv.1-8

Walk in Harmony - vv.9-10

Walk in Honesty - vv.11-12

HOMEWORK:

Read 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18 & 1st Corinthians 15.

Do Observation & Interpretation Questions on 4:13-18.

Do a word study of "sleep/asleep".

"GROWING BEFORE GOING"
WEEK NINE

This week we will be focusing on some of the most central teaching in all of the New Testament on the return of Jesus Christ. Remember from Week Three that the popular religious beliefs of Thessalonica denied life after death. A typical inscription on a grave of that day demonstrates this fact:

- I was not
- I became
- I am not
- I care not*

*The Bible Exposition Commentary, Warren Wiersbe, p.178.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

	<p>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.</p> <p>14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.</p>	
--	---	--

INTERPRETATION

From your homework study, what did you find the word "sleep/asleep" to mean? What does it mean to "sleep in Jesus"?

Does the Bible teach "soul sleep"? (See 2 Cor. 5:8 to understand what happens to the soul at physical death.)

What are the two categories of people mentioned in verse 15-17 at the coming of the Lord? Who does the Rapture affect?

DOCTRINAL STUDY

THE RAPTURE

Verse 17 says that those who are "alive and remain" at the time of this event will be "caught up".

Strong's # 726

Greek Word - "harpazo"

Defn - "to seize, catch away, pluck, pull, take by force"

Other Uses:

Acts 8:39

2 Cor. 12:2,4

Where does the word "Rapture" come from?

The Latin equivalent of the Greek word "harpazo" used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is "rapio", to take away by force. In the Latin Vulgate, translated by Jerome around 400 A.D., the word appears as "raptus", the past participle of "rapio". Our English word *rapt* and *rapture* stem from this past participle.

What else will happen at the Rapture? See 1 Corinthians 15:51-52.

CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE RAPTURE & THE SECOND COMING

Rapture

1. Involves a translation of believers
2. Translated saints go to heaven
3. Earth is not judged
4. Immanent
5. Not in the OT
6. Involves believers only
7. Occurs before the Day of Wrath
8. No mention of Satan in Rapture passages
9. Christ comes for His own
10. Christ comes in the air
11. Christ claims His Bride (the Church)
12. Only His own see Him
13. Occurs prior to the Tribulation
14. It is a NT "mystery"

Second Coming

1. No translation of believers
2. Translated saints come w/Him to earth
3. Earth judged and righteousness established
4. Comes at end of the 70th Week of Daniel
5. Predicted often in the OT
6. Involves every man on earth ("every eye")
7. Concludes the Day of Wrath
8. Involves Satan being bound for 1,000 years
9. Christ comes with His own
10. Christ comes to the earth
11. Christ comes with His Bride
12. Every eye shall see Him
13. Occurs prior to the Millennium
14. Predicted throughout the OT

When will the Rapture occur? (See End Times Chart Following)

Matthew 24:42-44

Daniel 9:24-27

What three things will accompany this event in v.16?

Why did Paul remind the Thessalonians of the Rapture? (vv.13,18)

APPLICATION

What hope and what comfort is given to you by the certainty of Jesus coming to take us to heaven?

1 Thessalonians 1:10 tells us to look for Christ's appearing, and 2 Timothy 4:8 instructs us to love His appearing? Look again at 1 Thessalonians 4:16. Who should we be looking for each day?

What are you tempted to fix your eyes on other than Jesus? What does Luke 11:34 say about our eyes?

According to 1 John 2:28-3:3, how should this hope cause us to live?

Knowing that Jesus could return at any time, are you ready? Are there any changes the Spirit is telling you to make in your life?

How does the immanency of Christ's return (it could happen any time) affect our evangelism?

PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

Death is Not the End - vv.13-14

Jesus is Coming Again - vv. 16-17

Our Destiny is Heaven - v.17

HOMEWORK:

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 & Matthew 24-25.

Do Observation, Interpretation, & Application Questions for 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.

Fill in your Section Headings from Week Four if you have not already.

"GROWING BEFORE GOING"
WEEK TEN

At the end of chapter four, Paul dealt with the Rapture in relation to believers- both those who are alive and those who have died in Christ when Jesus comes for His Bride. In chapter five, he is going to relate the Rapture to the unbelievers, and apply the doctrine to our lives.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

	<p>1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.</p> <p>2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.</p> <p>5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.</p> <p>6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.</p> <p>7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ,</p> <p>10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.</p> <p>11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.</p>	
--	---	--

INTERPRETATION

What "times and seasons" was Paul referring to in v.1? (See Matthew 24:3-8)

Why would Paul describe the day of the Lord as a "thief in the night"?

Note the use of the pronouns "you" and "they" in vv. 1-4. Who is Paul referring to in each case?

For what kind of person will the Day of the Lord come as a "thief in the night"?

Paul gives three commands in verse 6. Rewrite this verse in your own words, emphasizing the commands.

What two vital organs of the body are covered by the two pieces of armor in v.8? What does this armor protect from? (See Eph. 6:11)

Read the description of the Messiah in Isaiah 59:17. What similarity do you notice to 1 Thess. 5:8?

What does it mean for a believer to "put on" this breastplate and helmet from these passages?

Romans 13:14

Ephesians 4:24

Ephesians 6:11-18

Colossians 3:9-17

What two destinies are contrasted in 1 Thessalonians 5:9?

What do these verses say about the "wrath" of God?

STRONG'S # 3709 Greek word - orge (orgay)

Romans 5:9

1 Thessalonians 1:10

1 Thessalonians 2:16

Revelation 6:16

When will God's wrath come, and who is it for?

Jeremiah 10:10

John 3:36

Romans 1:18

Revelation 19:15

In contrast to a destiny of wrath, what is the believer's destiny in v. 10?

APPLICATION

Can you claim 1 Thessalonians 5:1 as true of yourself? How well do you know the "times and seasons"?

How would you describe someone who is "asleep" spiritually? (see v.6) How would you describe someone who is "watching" and "sober"?

Paul exhorts us to put on faith, hope and love in v.8. How can each of these strengthen us in these last days?

Faith

Hope

Love

How can 1 Thessalonians 5:1-10 be of comfort to another believer? How could you use these verses to edify (build up, strengthen) another believer?

PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

Don't be Ignorant vv.1-4

Watch and Be Sober vv.5-8

Put on Christ vv.8-11

HOMEWORK:

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Do Observation & Interpretation Questions for verses 12-24

Make a list of all of the commands in these verses

"GROWING BEFORE GOING"
WEEK ELEVEN

Paul is about to conclude his letter and send it off to his beloved brethren in Thessalonica, but before he does, he wants to give them some final exhortations as to how to get along as the family of God until that time when Jesus would come for them.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

	<p>12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,</p> <p>13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.</p> <p>14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.</p> <p>15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.</p> <p>16 Rejoice always,</p> <p>17 pray without ceasing,</p> <p>18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.</p> <p>19 Do not quench the Spirit.</p> <p>20 Do not despise prophecies.</p> <p>21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.</p> <p>22 Abstain from every form of evil.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.</p>	<p>"Recognize" -</p> <p>"Unruly" -</p> <p>"Fainthearted" -</p> <p>"Weak" -</p> <p>"Quench" -</p>
--	---	--

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

	<p>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.</p>	
--	---	--

REVIEW OF THE BIBLE STUDY METHOD

OBSERVATION: What do I see? (Who, What, Where, When, How Many, How Often)

Start with terms - "What is the most important term in this verse?"

Who are the people involved?

Are there any cause-effect relationships?

Six things to look for:

Things that are emphasized

Things that are repeated

Things that are related

Things that are alike

Things that are unlike

Things that are true to life

INTERPRETATION: What does it mean?

Define words

Consider the context

Compare Scripture with Scripture

Consider History and Culture

Do a word study or doctrinal study

Write out the meaning of the verse/term

APPLICATION: How does it work in my life?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a sin for me to avoid?

Is there a promise for me to claim?

Is there a prayer for me to repeat?

Is there a command for me to obey?

Is there a condition for me to meet?

Is there a verse for me to memorize?

Is there an error for me to avoid?

"PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER"

This last section of Paul's letter can be divided in the following way:

5:12-13 _____

5:14-15 _____

5:16-18 _____

5:19-21 _____

5:22-24 _____

5:25-28 _____

Work through your verses using the Observation, Interpretation, & Application steps of Bible Study, and then be prepared to share with the group your discoveries! When you are done, write a phrase or sentence in the space provided above that summarizes the teaching of the verses you studied. You may use the space below for the Application Step.

APPLICATION

PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

Love Your Leaders - vv.12-13

Don't Quench the Spirit - v.19

God is Faithful - v.24

HOMEWORK: Read through 1st Thessalonians as many times as you are able to this week, asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading. Keep a written list of those Observations, Interpretations, & Applications that the Spirit puts on your heart this week.

"GROWING BEFORE GOING"
WEEK TWELVE

Our prayer is that as we conclude this study of 1st Thessalonians, we have drawn closer to the Lord Jesus Christ, and that the hope of his soon return will deepen our faith and cause us to live lives of holiness in obedience. We trust that your appetite for God's Word has increased as well!

One of Paul's concluding words to the new believers at Thessalonica was that the Word be read publicly. 1st Thessalonians 5:27 says, *"I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all holy brethren."* Therefore, an appropriate way to begin this last class is by reading the entire letter together one more time.

When you have finished, take a minute to write below a few of the truths from this letter God has planted in your heart:

After you have finished, be prepared to share a testimony of what God has taught you through this study, or some change He has brought in your life through the working of His Spirit.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you. Amen.