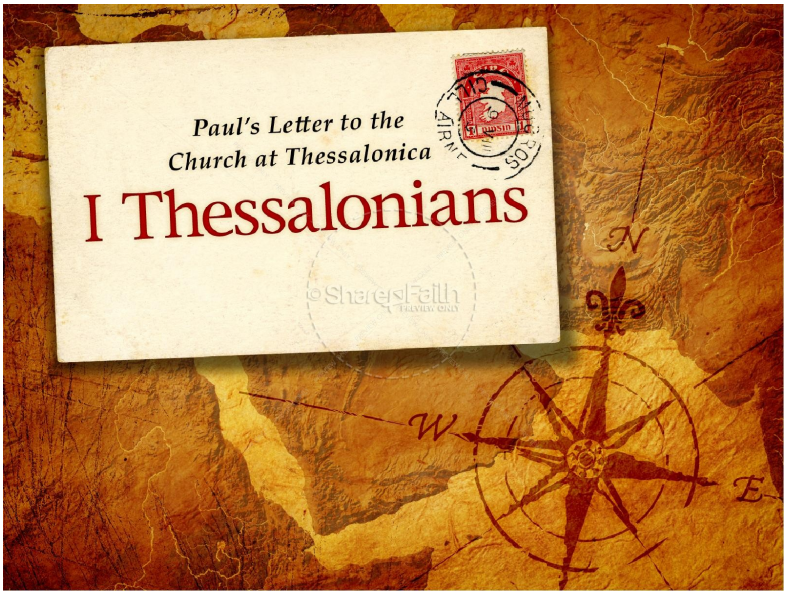
A Guided Inductive Study of 1 Thessalonians



"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15

A practical study of 1 Thessalonians

by Pastor Richard W. LaFountain

How To Study

Read the Scripture:
Reading the Scripture is important. Read every word. Don't skip. Don't just read your favorite verses. Read it all. Think about what you are reading. Is there any word or statement you do not understand? Is there anything that confuses you or seems inconsistent with other Scriptures? Is there anything you would like to research? Use at least two translations.

Translations:
I suggest New King James, if you like the old wording. The New International Version is helpful. And the English Standard Version is also refreshing. For this study I am using the NKJV because I grew up with KJV and its rhythms are familiar to me. You can use other translations.

Chapter by Chapter:
We are going to study the Book of Romans chapter by chapter. Some chapters are longer and have much to think about. Those chapters we have divided into segments so you cover Romans 8 in four weeks instead of one week. We assume you will use one chapter each week. If you are using this for daily readings then you might find it too difficult to answer the questions. That's okay. My hope, however, is that you use is in a weekly Bible study. Anyone can lead it.

Highlighted Verses:
I have chosen to highlight what I feel are key verses. You may think others are more important. That is okay. Write that in your personal journal or if you are studying in a group write down other verses you feel are important. Oh, and every chapter has one key verse.

Discussion Questions:
We have not attempted to add commentary because we believe the Scriptures speak for themselves and the Holy

Spirit can teach us as much as another person's commentary. I have added suggested questions to answer and discuss. This is especially helpful when studying with a group. You are not limited to my questions, ask your own. In a self-directed study it will be harder to consider your answers to the questions. In a group, however, one question might stimulate other questions. You do not have to answer every question. Use what is helpful and useful and leave the rest.

Personal Edification:
I have often taught my students to look for certain things in ever chapter of the Bible. You will not find all five in every chapter, but you should be able to find two or three. Write them down in a journal or share it with a group. It is called the PEPSI acronym.

Search for Treasure: (P.E.P.S.I.)

- A **P**-romise to claim.
- An **E**-xample to follow.
- A **P**-rayer concern.
- A **S**-in to avoid.
- An **I**-nstruction to obey.

Personal Questions:

- What Verse Challenged you?
- What Verse Encouraged you?
- What Verse Convicted you?
- What Verse Confused you?
- What Verse Startled you?
- What Verse Frightened you?

Group Questions:

1. What verse stands out to you in this chapter? Why?
2. What verse causes you to struggle with its demand? Why?
3. What verse encourages your faith the most? Why?
4. Is there a command here you find most difficult to obey? Why?
5. Is there a promise here you want to claim? What?
6. Is there something you need to pray about in this passage? Why?
7. Is there a word / topic here you need to explore more deeply? What?

Outline of 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 1 – Saved, Chose, Elect

1 Thessalonians 2 - Walk Worthy

1 Thessalonians 3 - Your Faith Tried

1 Thessalonians 4 - Holiness

1 Thessalonians 5 – The Day of the Lord

1 Thessalonians 1 – Saved, Chosen and Elect

Key verses to think about.

At first glance I thought "There's not much here" then I read it in New International Verson and it became clearer.

1:2-4 Paul's Prayer Your Election

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 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, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God.

1:5 NIV Loved & Chosen by God

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.

1:6 Joy in the Holy Spirit

You became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit,

1:9-10 Saved from Wrath to Come

They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Main Truth:

You are elect and chosen by God which created deep conviction and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Questions:

1 How do you understand that God chose you before the foundation of the world? (Eph. 1:4)

2 Have you ever, and do you experience deep conviction of sin? Share your experience of deep conviction. If not, why not?

3 Do you have continual joy in the Holy Spirit? What does that mean? What does that look like? Do you experience daily joy from the Spirit of God? (1 Peter 1:8)

4 Are you anxiously and expectantly waiting for the coming of Jesus?

5 Do you ever warn others of the wrath to come? If not, why not?

1 Thessalonians 2 - Walk Worthy

Key verse to think about.

2:4 God Tests Our Hearts
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.

2:8 You Are Dear to Us
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.

2:11-12 Walk Worthy of God
As you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does his* own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

2:13 The Word of God in You
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.

2:16 NIV The Wrath of God
They displease God and are hostile to everyone in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

2:18 Satan Hindered Us
Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us.

2:19-20 You Are Our Joy
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? For you are our glory and joy.

Main Truth:

Paul's tender love and care for the church as a father cares for his little ones.

Questions:

1 Who led you to Christ? Tell how that came about.

2 Who has been a tender spiritual guide and mentor to you?

3 Have you had any experience of Satan hindering your plans? What did that look like?

4 Have you led anyone to Christ? Who? How many spiritual children do you have? Do you love them as Paul loved the Thessalonians?

1 Thessalonians 3 - Your Faith Tried

Key verses to think about.

3:5 No Labor In Vain
I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

3:10 Supply What Lacks in Your Faith
Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

3:12 Love One Another
May the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you.

3:13 Be Blameless
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.

Main Truth:

Our faith can be tempted, shaken, lacking, and decreased or increased.

Questions:

1 What temptations does the temper put in your path? Today? Yesterday? What does Satan most often accuse you of?

2 What is lacking in your faith? Where does your faith need strengthening?

3 Are you increasing and abounding in love for others?

4 Are you blameless in holiness?

5 Are you increasing and abounding in love for others?

1 Thessalonians 4 - Holiness

Key verses to think about.

4:3 Your Sanctification
For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

4:4-5 Flee Sexual Immorality
You should abstain from sexual immorality; Each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

4:7 Called to Holiness
For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

4:9 Brotherly Love
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;

4:11 A Quiet Life
Aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you.

4:13-14 Those Who Sleep in Jesus
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. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

4:15-18 Caught lp Together
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. 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. 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. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Main Truth:

Be holy and ready for the coming of the Lord.

Questions:

1 What does sanctification mean to you personally? Does it matter?

2 What does it mean to you to be holy? What is holiness?

3 Are you willing to memorize vrs 15-18 that tells us of the Rapture?

1 Thessalonians 5 – The Day of the Lord

There's a lot here to digest. Paul gives a machine gun spray of commands and advice. It would be easy to gloss over each one, in effect ignoring them all. Try taking each one singly and meditating on it and praying over it. Digest it!

Key verses to think about.

5:2-4 The Day of the Lord
For you know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 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. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

5:8-9 Put on Your Armor
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. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

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

Various commands Verses 16-22
5:16 Rejoice always,
5:17 pray without ceasing,
5:18 In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.
5:20 Do not despise prophecies.
5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.
5:22 Abstain from every form of evil.

5:23-24 May God Sanctify You Wholly
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. He who calls you *is* faithful, who also will do *it.*

Main Truth:

Be ready for the coming of the Lord. Be holy.

Questions:

1 How do we put on the armor of God?

2 How can we rejoice always?

3 How can we pray without ceasing?

4 How do we avoid quenching the Spirit?

5 How can we give thanks in everything?

6 What does it mean to be “sanctified wholly”?