

## STUDY PAK 2

### I THESSALONIANS CHAPTER 1

“How vast the benefits divine which we in Christ possess!  
We are redeemed from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and called to holiness.  
But not for works which we have done or shall hereafter do  
Hath God decreed on sinful men Salvation to bestow.”

~~ Augustus Toplady (*Rock of Ages*) ~~

#### I. GREETING, VERSE 1

- A. Paul, with his companions in the mission journey, Silvanus (Silas) and Timotheus (Timothy) wrote the young church in Thessalonica.
- B. Paul combined traditional Greek, Latin and Hebrew greetings. The church contained all three peoples.
- C. The Thessalonian church was “\_\_\_\_\_” and “\_\_\_\_\_” - “My church”, Matthew 16.
- D. Grace comes from God. “The Grace of God is the sum total of all the blessings so freely and willingly bestowed upon believers by almighty God through His beloved Son.” Oliver B. Greene, *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians*, p. 18.
- E. Peace \_\_\_\_\_. “Peace is grace in its fullest fruit-it is the fullest realization of the fruits and benefits of grace.” Oliver B. Greene, *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Thessalonians*, p. 18. See John 14:27.

#### II. FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS, VERSES 2-4

- A. Paul was thankful for the Thessalonian Christians. He prayed for them regularly as did Silas and Timothy. Who do you pray for on a regular basis?
- B. Paul regularly remembered three things about the Thessalonian believers:
  - 1. Their \_\_\_\_\_, Philippians 2:12.
  - 2. Their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3. Their \_\_\_\_\_.

The faith of the Thessalonians was not just theoretical but practical. It generated \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- C. All of this was made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- D. God the Father was the \_\_\_\_\_ to all this. “What a wonderful trinity of Christian graces! It should be the biography of every believer and I hope it is the biography of your church, too.” J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible*, volume 5, p. 373.
- E. Paul frequently appealed to \_\_\_\_\_, 1 Thessalonians 2:4-5, 10; 3:9; Romans 1:9. See 1 Kings 17:1.
- F. Verse 4 contains the first reference to Paul on the subject of election.

Clearly we are not saved because we choose God. We are saved because He has chosen us. See 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Ephesians 1:3-5.

According to the plain statements of Scripture, the Lord has elected to choose whosoever will, Romans 10:13, John 3:14-21. \_\_\_\_\_ the statements of the Word of God are equally true and any doctrinal position must harmonize with \_\_\_\_\_ statement of God upon the subject.

- G. Election is \_\_\_\_\_ (referring to a class of people) not individual.

### III. EXAMPLES AND ENSAMBLES, VERSES 5-7

- A. Ensamble is a synonym for example. It carries the idea of a “sample”.
- B. Salvation was not just a set of verbal opinions. The message of the gospel was accompanied by three things that set it apart.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ - 2 Timothy 1:7; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:4.
  2. The \_\_\_\_\_ - John 15:26-27.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_.

A true gospel message does not lead to doubt or uncertainty, 1 John 5:13; Proverbs 22:20-21.

- C. For the sake of the testimony of the transforming power of the gospel, we should be \_\_\_\_\_, Titus 2:11-15; 2 Peter 3:11; Ephesians 2:8-10.
- D. The result of the godly testimony of the three missionaries, the Thessalonican Christians became followers both of Christ and Paul.

- E. The early ministry in Thessalonica was both a time of:
1. \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_.
- F. As the Thessalonian believers became followers of Paul they became examples to the other Christians in the area.

\_\_\_\_\_.

What kind of example is your church?

#### IV. THE IMPACT OF THEIR EXAMPLE, VERSE 8

1. Your church has a testimony. The testimony of your church is noticed. What kind of testimony does your church have?
2. Their testimony reflected well on Paul.

#### V. WHAT MADE THE TESTIMONY OF THE THESSALONICAN BELIEVERS SO STRONG, VERSES 9-10

- A. Paul's testimony was reflected in their testimony.
- B. They had \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. They were \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. They were looking for the \_\_\_\_\_.
1. Christ is a distinct religious leader because He has risen from the dead.
  2. There is a distinctive wrath to come. This was different and greater than the \_\_\_\_\_ that existed in Paul's day.
  3. The Lord Jesus will deliver us from the wrath to come (the \_\_\_\_\_). This is a direct reference to the Rapture.
- E. The Thessalonians preached the true gospel of grace and \_\_\_\_\_. They followed Paul. Paul followed Christ.
- F. Insight from J. Vernon McGee.

“But when Paul arrived in Thessalonica, he preached Christ. When he preached Christ, they turned to God from idols. Notice that he doesn't say they turned from

idols to God. Someone will say, 'you're splitting hairs'. I surely am. These are hairs that need to be split. We need to do some straight thinking about this."

'How ye turned \_\_\_\_\_ God \_\_\_\_\_ idols.' We hear today that repentance is essential to salvation. Repentance and believing are presented as two steps in a process. Actually, they are both wrapped up in the same package and you have them both right here. When Paul preached Christ, they turned to God from idols. I want you to see something that is very important. When they turned to God, that is the work of faith that is what faith did. The Lord Jesus said, ...this is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent, John 6:29. These people turned to God from idols; they turned from idols, too. That's right - and that is repentance. The \_\_\_\_\_.

It didn't precede it. When they turned to God, they automatically turned from idols." J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible*, volume 5, p. 377.