

1st Thessalonians

Spring 2025

Week 5 – 1 Thessalonians 3:1- 4:8

Key Verse - 1 Thessalonians 5:9

God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Review

- ❖ Paul's defense of the Ministry (2:1-6)
 - No doctrinal error
 - No impure motives
 - No deception
 - No attempt to please man, but only God
 - No flattery
 - No greed
 - No attempt to get praise from people
- ❖ There are three reasons God tests our heart
 1. To expose what's in our heart (Deut 8:2)
 2. To refine us (Psalm 66:10)
 3. To mature us (James 1:2-4)
- ❖ As Christians when we die and go to Heaven and our loved ones know Christ as their Savior and go to heaven, there will be this glorious reunion in the presence of the Lord, otherwise Paul wouldn't write verses 19&20

1 Thessalonians 3:1-20

Timothy is our co-worker in God's service

So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. ² We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith, ³ so that no one would be unsettled by these trials. For you know quite well that we are destined for them. ⁴ In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you well know. ⁵ For this reason, when I could stand it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith. I was afraid that in some way the tempter had tempted you and that our labors might have been in vain.

Timothy's Encouraging Report

⁶ But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you. ⁷ Therefore, brothers and sisters, in all our distress and persecution we were encouraged about you because of your faith. ⁸ For now we really live, since you are standing firm in the Lord. ⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God

because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

- ❖ We know that Paul had to leave in the middle of the night and went to Berea and after Berea he went to Athen, but he said I sent Timothy back because he was concerned

Question 1 – *What were the two main reasons Paul sends Timothy back to Thessalonica? (verse 2)*

- ❖ Paul did not want the trials he was going through or their own trials to shipwreck their faith

Read 1st Peter 4 Verses 12-16

Question 2 – *How do we lose our confidence in God's plan for us when we go through difficulties?*

Question 3 – *How does Satan use discouragement, depression, disobedience and defeat to accomplish his purposes?*

Re-read 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10

Question 4 – *What good news had Timothy brought back to Paul?*

- ❖ Paul was willing to forgo Timothy's company and presence so that the Thessalonians would be strengthened and encouraged.
- ❖ Timothy was willing to go anywhere at any cost to spread the message.

Question 5 - *What is the meaning of Paul's prayer in 1 Th 3:12-14?*

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

Living to Please God

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. ² For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³ It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, ⁵ not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; ⁶ and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. ⁷ For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.

- ❖ This chapter begins with instructions (some translations used the word "commandment") about living the way that would please God.
- ❖ Should be every Christian's goal to live how God would want us to live, but sometimes sin (our flesh) gets in the way of that goal.

Question 5 – *How do we recognize we are doing something that displeases God and what recourse do we have available to become a child of God once again?*

Question 6 – *What does it mean to be following the will of God? How willing are we to follow God's will even when it's not convenient or comfortable?*

- ❖ There are specific times in the Bible when God explicitly says, "this is my will."
- ❖ Four things that Paul refers to as God's will in 1 Thess. Chapters 4 and 5.
 1. Avoid Sexual Sin (4:3)
 2. Be joyful always (5:16)
 3. Pray Continually (5:17)
 4. Give thanks in all circumstances (5:18)
- ❖ Paul distinguishes between those who know God and those who don't and he's challenging the church at Thessalonica.
- ❖ As Christians we are to learn to control our bodies, to be holy and to live honorably.

Question 7 – *Are all sins equal in God's eyes? Are all sins equal in ramification?*

Read 1 Cor 6:18-20

- ❖ Paul defines sexual immorality in the Greek word "*pornea*" from where we get the word pornography.
- ❖ The word "*pornea*" covers a broad term that covers all aspects of sexual sin.

Question 8 – *How does God define sexual purity?*

Final thoughts

- ❖ Barna research found that 32% of millennials thought watching porn was wrong, while 56% thought it was wrong not to recycle.

- ❖ We cannot think that God's not current, or the world has changed.
- ❖ When we sin against the Lord, it's because I love myself more than I love God.
- ❖ We bring difficulty on ourselves when we think we know better than God's standards.
- ❖ Any sexual activity outside the bonds of marriage between a man and a woman is sexual sin.
- ❖ It will always be better to obey God, than to disobey God.
- ❖ **As Christians we are to learn to control our bodies, to be holy and to live honorably.**

Outline of 1st Thessalonians

- ❖ Three Main points of 1st Thessalonians
 - Trials will Come (Ch. 1-3)
 - Temptations will come (Ch.4)
 - Jesus will come! (Ch. 4-5)

References

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