**1 Thessalonians**

**Chapter One**

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Author: Paul

Paul also mentions Silas and Timothy co-authors

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Verses 1- Paul addresses the church in Thessalonians which is *in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:*

Verses 1-3 Paul’s salutation to the church of Thessalonica is combined with the customary Greek (“*grace”)* and the Hebrew (“*peace”)* greetings of his day. This chapter is a declaration of thanksgiving for the Thessalonians’ change from heathenism to Christian hope.

***3. Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;*** (KJV)

Faith, hope, and love describes the character of their new lives. Recognizing these character traits, Paul knew they were serious about what they had received. It’s encouraging when you can see a manifestation of learning in students.

***4.Knowing brethren beloved, your election of God.***

They showed proof of their election of God.

Election: Greek *ekloge (ek-log-ay). divine selection, chosen*

Proof of their election comes through what they manifest:

***Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering:***

***14. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness***

1. ***For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.***

Paul, Silas and Timothy manifest the gospel through their lifestyles. *How do we share our faith?*

There are rules in sharing our faith:

Rule #1- We must be clean vessels.

The vessels of the Lord must be first partakers of what they teach.

***Romans 2:21- Thou therefore which teachest another, teaches thou not thyself? Thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?***

***22. Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? You that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?***

***23. Thou that makest boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?***

***24. For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.***

***2 Timothy 2:6- The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruit.***

In the Old Testament:

**Isaiah 52:10- The Lord hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

**11. Depart ye, depart ye, go ye our from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her, be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.**

***Psalms 51:13- Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.***

Rule #2- We must be able to clearly explain the simplicity of the gospel without indulging in meaningless debates of profound theological concepts.

Example:

***Acts 8:35- Then Phillip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.***

***36. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?***

***37. And Phillip said, If thou believeth with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God.***

Rule #3- We must avoid arguments *and stick to basic truth of man’s sin and Christ’s blood. Often unbelievers will attempt to change the subject of the gospel by asking unrelated questions, such as where did God come from, or where did Cain find his wife when he killed his*

***Rule #3-*** We must avoid arguments and stick to basic scriptures of man’s sin and Christ’s blood.

***1 Timothy 1:4- Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather that godly edifying which is in faith: so do.***

***Tirus 3:9- But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and striving about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.***

Other discussions such as after Cain killed his brother Abel, where did he find a wife?

 Where did God come from?

Was Jesus Black or White?

Was Eden in Africa?

**Rule #4-** *We must use the Word of God. Paul’s great success as an evangelist Is linked to his use of God’s Word.*

***Acts 17:2-And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures***

***18:28-For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.***

***2 Timothy 2:15- Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth***

***2 Timothy 3:14-But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of,***

***15. And from a child thou hast known the Holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.***

***16. All scriptures is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:***

***17. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.***

Rule #5- We must depend on the of God. We are to be totally governed by the Spirit, power, and wisdom of God.

***John 3:15- That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life***

***Acts 6:10- And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.***

***1 Corinthians 2:4- And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power***

***5.That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.***

Sharing our faith: When?

In our minds we always feel we can wait to tell a lost soul about Christ. Because we do not know whether or not we will see someone later or tomorrow, we must minister, especially when we feel an unction from the Holy Ghost.

***2 Timothy 4:2- Preach the Word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.***

The question, when should we share our faith? The sinner is never promised to see tomorrow. Therefore today is the acceptable time to share salvation.

***2 Corinthians 6:1- We then, as workers together with Him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.***

***2. (For He saith, I HAVE HEARD THEE IN A TIME ACCEPTED, AND IN THE DAY OF SALVATION HAVE I SUCCOURED THEE: Behold, now is the accepted time; Behold now is the day of salvation.)***

***Thessalonians 1:6- And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost.***

***7. So that we were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.***

***8. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad, so that we need not to speak anything.***

***9. For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye 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, which delivered us from the wrath to come.***

Good News Translation

1. ***You imitated us and the Lord; and even though you suffered much, you received the message with the joy that comes from the Holy Spirit.***
2. ***So you became an example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia.***
3. ***For not only did the message about the Lord go out from you throughout Macedonia and Achaia, but the news about your faith in God has gone every where. There is nothing, then, that we need to say.***
4. ***All these people speak about how you received us when we visited you, and how you turned away from idols to God, to serve the true and living God***
5. ***And to wait for His Son to come from heaven- His Son Jesus, whom He raised from death and who rescues us from God’s anger that is coming.***

Whenever you teach someone, there is always a possibility of that person imitating you. Most of the time, someone who knows you will be able to see the resemblance.

Peter for an example when he was trying to deny he knew Jesus.

***Matthew 26:69- Now Peter without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.***

***70. But he denied before them all saying, I know not what thou sayest.***

***71. And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that was there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.***

***72. And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.***

***73. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely Thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.***

Bewray: evident, certain, manifest

 If there is a certain teaching technique you have, most of the students will learn your technique and imitate you.

*References:*

The Open Bible, Authorized King James Version, Thomas Nelson since 1798

Online Strong Concordance

Good News online translation