

1.

Thessalonians: The Model Church in a Depraved Culture Introduction

The Author: Paul

Paul, [Silas], and Timothy: To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:1 & 2 Thessalonians 1:1

The Date:

- 1 Thessalonians—50/51 A.D.
- 2 Thessalonians—a few months later

The City:

- Macedonia—Founded in 315 B.C. by Cassander—One of Alexander the Great's Generals.
- Citizens: Greeks, Romans, & Jews

The Church:

- Paul's 2nd Missionary Trip

...they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 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." 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. Acts 17:1-4

- [Tradition holds Gaius was first Bishop/Overseer]

The Theme:

Multiple Topics in 8 Chapters of 2 Letters.

- Encouragement
- Undermining Paul
- Slipping Back into Old Life
- Practical Christian Living in a Hostile Culture

The Preview:

- Immaturity vs. Worldliness

These [the Bereans] were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Acts 17:11

The Connection/Application:

- Anxious
 - Concerned
 - False Teaching
 - Persecution

But, at the Same Time...

- Committed
 - Loving
 - Generous
 - Teachable

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, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

2.

Thessalonians: The Model Church in a Depraved Culture

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

Paul, Silas, 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. 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 [steadfastness] of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

The Evidence of Election & The Proof of Salvation

1. Work of Faith

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. James 2:17-18

Change in the person: nature, desire, language, drive, priorities, view of self, view of sin, & source of trust.

Change in energies, time, talents, treasures, & tasks

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10

2. Labor of Love

- Love God

Jesus: "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." John 14:21

- Love Others

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; and indeed you do so toward all the brethren...

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

- Who you Love

Jesus: "But if you love [only] those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to [only] those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same." Luke 6:32-33

Human Tendency: Conditional

- How you Love

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18 (NIV)

3. Steadfastness of Hope (Endurance/Perseverance)

Bases for unmovable hope: "...our Lord Jesus Christ..." (vs. 3)

We who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever... Hebrews 6:18-20 (NIV)

3.

Thessalonians: The Model Church in a Depraved Culture

1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

We give thanks...knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. 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. And, you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. 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. 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, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

I. Understanding Election

...knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. verse 4

What Election Sets in Motion

II. The Power of the Holy Spirit:

- Regeneration
- Faith
- Gospel
- Calling
- Conviction/Repentance

For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance... verse 5

1. Imitators of Righteousness

And, you became imitators of us and of the Lord... verse 6 (NIV)

And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. Acts 11:26

Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1

2. Joy in Tribulation

...having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit... verse 6

3. Exemplary in Behavior

...so that you became examples to all... verse 7

4. Proclaimers of the Gospel

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... verse 8

"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." Acts 4:20

5. Possessors of Truth About Sin, Self, the Word, & God

...how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God... verse 9

6. Eagerness for Christ's Return

...to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. verse 10

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing. 2 Timothy 4:8 (NIV)

4.

Thessalonians: The Model Church in a Depraved Culture

1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain. 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. For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. 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. For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

[Treatment at Philippi = Acts 16:16-24]

Fact: The culture's reaction to your faith, message, and mission is a good indicator of your authenticity/accuracy.

Question: How did they respond to and treat Jesus?

Today's Approach: How do teachers overcome opposition?

Answer: Water down the Gospel. Good News Only. Drop Divisive Doctrine. Incorporate the Culture. Concede Social Issues.

If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, they are conceited and understand nothing... Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith. 1 Timothy 6:3-4 & 20-21 (NIV)

Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant. Galatians 1:10 (NLT)

Biblical Leadership that Produces Godly Members

1. Tenacity

...we were bold in our God to speak to you the Gospel of God... verse 2

For if I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel! 1 Corinthians 9:16

2. Integrity

For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit. verse 3 [& verse 5]

So an elder must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach. 1 Timothy 3:2 (NLT)

3. Authority

But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel, even so we speak... verse 4

4. Accountability

...not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts... verse 4

My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. James 3:1

5. Humility

...when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. verse 6

Study Guide Homework: Reading & Questions pages 13-16. Also Question 10 (page 20)

[Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture citations are from The NKJV, Thomas Nelson Publishing, 1982]

5.

Thessalonians: The Model Church in a Depraved Culture

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children. 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. 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. You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; 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. 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

1. Spiritual Mothering [verses 7-9]

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you. Galatians 4:19

- Gentleness
- Affection
- Sacrificial Love

...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... verse 8

- Unselfish Labor

2. Spiritual Fathering [verses 10-12]

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. 1 Corinthians 4:15

- Model

You are witnesses... verse 10

- Teacher

And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2

- Motivator

...and charged every one of you... verse 11

- Cultivator

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ... Ephesians 4:13-15

Study Guide Homework: Study Guide Questions 2 & 3
(page 17)

6.

Thessalonians: The Model Church in a Depraved Culture 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

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. 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 Judeans, 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, 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. 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16

Truth: The Word of God is Bittersweet

[The angel] said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth." Revelation 10:9

Consequence: We have the Tale of Two Groups

A People to be Glad For [Verses 13-14]

1. Those Who "Received" & "Welcomed" the Word of God

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14

2. Those Now Suffering in Collision

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

A People to be Sad For [Verses 15-16]

1. Those Who Reject the Word of God

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. Romans 10:2-3

- "...the word of men" (Verse 13) = The View & Stance of Liberal Church = Culture

2. Those who Become the Cause of Our Collision

Jewish Leaders: "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this Name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" Acts 5:28

Jesus: "And you will be hated by all for My name's sake." Luke 21:17

Their Collision is Coming: "...wrath has come upon them..." (Verse 16)

- Destruction/Dispersion 70 A.D.
- Christ's Return in Judgment
- Eternity in Hell

Study Guide Homework:

Thessalonians: The Model Church in a Depraved Culture

1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

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. Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. 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.
1 Thessalonians 2:17-20

Paul's Critics = "Paul's fear is greater than his love & concern for you. Therefore, listen to and follow us."

A. A Love for the Church [verses 17-18a]

"...not in heart..." (verse 17)

And when he had said these things, [Paul] knelt down and prayed with them all. Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more.
Acts 20:36-38

- Biblical Pastoring = More than a Job. It's a Family.
- Therefore, just as with Family: An Unconditional Love to the Model Children & the Challenging Children

"...taken away..." vs. went away (verse 17)

...besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. 2 Corinthians 11:28

B. An Understanding of the Enemy [verse 18b]

I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NIV)

And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:14 (NIV)

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.
1 Peter 5:8

C. An Anticipation of the Reward [verses 19-20]

Jesus: "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."
Revelation 22:12

The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. 1 Peter 5:1-4

- Paul saw the hard, courtroom-worthy evidence of Thessalonian authenticity.
- What would be the hard, courtroom-worth evidence of Paul's authenticity?

Study Guide Homework:

8.

Thessalonians: The Model Church in a Depraved Culture

1 Thessalonians 3:1-4

Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, 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, that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know.

The Role of the Elder

Prophet—Deliver the Word of God to the Members

Priest—Intercede for the Congregation

Pastor—Love and Care for the Flock

The Heart of the Elder

1. Affection (3:1a)
2. Sacrifice (3:1b-2a)
3. Compassion (3:2b-4)
4. Protectiveness (3:5)

Paul's Model: Jesus Christ

- Affection:

Jesus: "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." John 15:9

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her. Ephesians 5:25

- Sacrifice

Jesus: "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep." John 10:14-15

- Compassion:

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. John 11:33-35

And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. Mark 6:34

- Protectiveness

Jesus: "My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one." John 17:15 (NIV)

Study Guide Homework:

Thessalonians: A Model Church In a Depraved Culture

[Return Review]

A. The Church and the Culture

...They came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Then Paul, as his custom was, went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 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." 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. Acts 17:1-4

B. The X-ray of the Body

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. For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance... 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

Qualities of the Genuinely Saved: Love

- ...for Christ
- ...for the Word
- ...for the Church
- ...for the Worship
- ...for the Fellowship
- ...for the Maturity
- ...for the Structure

C. Exemplary Leaders: Qualified Elders

- Spiritual Mothering
- Spiritual Fathering

Paul's Love

Paul's Work

Paul's Understanding of How Satan Works

D. Ministry Priority

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. For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness. Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others...

1 Thessalonians 2:4-6

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ. Galatians 1:10 (NIV)

E. The Measure of Maturity

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...

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Next Sunday: 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Thessalonians: A Model Church In a Depraved Culture

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13

...Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 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. 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

The Elder's Commission of Prayer

Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the Word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word." Acts 6:2-4

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:14-16

Citation Context Notes:

The Pastor's Subject of Prayer

- Faith
- Love
- Fellowship
- Strength
- Mature in All Things
- Holiness
- Forward Focus
- [Protection]

Verse 12: "...increase and abound..."
= In Both Quantity and Quality

The Leader's Answered Prayer

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure... 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

Citation Context Notes:

Next Sunday: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13 Supplement

Thessalonians: A Model of Christ
1 Thessalonians 3

1. Affection

Therefore, when we could no longer endure it... Verse 1

2. Sacrifice

...we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ... Verses 1-2

3. Compassion

...to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. Verse 3

4. Protectiveness

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. Verse 5

5. Delight

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... Verse 6

6. Gratitude

For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God... Verse 9

7. Intercession

...night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith? Verse 10

Paul: *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*
1 Corinthians 11:1

Jesus: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another." John 13:34

Jesus: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep." John 10:11

Citation Context Notes:

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. John 11:33

Jesus: "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one." John 17:15

Jesus: "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church..." Matthew 16:17-18

Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Matthew 26:26 (NIV)

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25

Thessalonians: Model Behavior—Part 1
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

...you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that 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...For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore, he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

- “through the Lord Jesus” vs. Paul (man)
& verse 8 = “rejects...God”
- “commandments”—Namely: “sexual immorality”
= Fornication
- “like the Gentiles” = Godless, Culture, Greece, & Rome
- Biblical = Consenting sexual practice between a man and a woman, legally married to each other, which also cannot violate other restrictions.
- The “Victimless Crime/Sin” Mentality

[Prostitution (temple), adultery (all forms of extramarital sex*), pre-marital sex*, & any form of abuse]

Jesus: “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
Matthew 5:28

10 Commandments: 1. No other God(s), 2. No Idols, 3. No Taking Lord’s Name in Vain, 4. Keep Sabbath, 5. Honor Parents, 6. Don’t Kill, 7. Don’t Commit Adultery, 8. Don’t Steal, 9. Don’t Lie, and 10. Don’t Covet. [All Repeated, Except “*Keep Sabbath*”]

Q: What is Gentile Believer’s Obligation to the Law?

A: *...we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.* Acts 15:19-20 [Acts 15:29 & 21:25]

Q: Why any Food Prohibitions?

A: Unity/The Stumbling Factor

But, food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

1 Corinthians 8:8

- Later, in the Gentile Churches, it’s Reduced Down to:
Abstain from Sexual Immorality

Q: Why? Why is this Particular Sin so Different?

A: *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? ...But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.*
1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Despite What our Culture Says:

- Your Body is Not Your Own.
- Your Body Belongs to Christ.
- Your Body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit.
- This Act Joins Christ & the Spirit in the Sin.

13.

Thessalonians: Model Behavior—part 2
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

For you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that 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...For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore, he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 4:2-8

Review

- Romans 1: The Downward Spiral into God's Wrath: Deny Creator, Ingratitude, & Sexual Revolution
- The Biblical Mandate: Sanctification—Sexual Morality
- The Believer Should Control the Body.
The Body Should Not Control the Believer.

The 10 Commandments:

1. No Other God(s)
2. No Idols
3. No Taking the Lord's Name in Vain
4. Keep the Sabbath
5. Honor Your Parents
6. Don't Kill
7. Don't Commit Adultery*
8. Don't Steal
9. Don't Lie
10. Don't Covet

[All Repeated in the New Testament,
Except for; "Keep the Sabbath"]

Q: What is Gentile Believer's Obligation to the Law?

A: ...we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God, but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood, Acts 15:19-20 [Acts 15:29 & 21:25]

Q: Why are there any Food Prohibitions?

A: Unity/The Stumbling Factor

But, food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

1 Corinthians 8:8

- Later, in the Gentile Churches, it's Reduced Down to:
Abstain From Sexual Immorality

Q: Why? Why is this Particular Sin so Different?

A: Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? ...But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
1 Corinthians 6:15-20

Despite What our Culture Says:

- Your Body is NOT Your Own.
- Your Body Belongs to Christ.
- Your Body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit.
- This Act Joins Christ & the Spirit in the Sin.

Study Guide Homework: Read pages 31-32
Question 3—page 34

[Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture citations are from the NKJV, Thomas Nelson Publishing, 1982]

14.

Thessalonians: Model Behavior—part 3

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

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; 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; 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, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Model Behavior

- At Church
- At Home/By Yourself
- At Work
- In the Culture/Community/World

1. Lead a Quiet Life

- Vs. Rowdy, Boisterous, Opinionated, Argumentative, & Contentious
- Obsession: *Social Media, News, Arguments, & Debates

Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior... 1 Timothy 2:1-3

2. Mind Your Own Business

- Vs. A Busybody & A Gossip

For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12

And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not. 1 Timothy 5:13

- Truth: Whoever will talk to you about others...will talk to others about you.

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:5-6 (NIV)

3. Work as a Witness

- With Hands (Labor)
- Vs. Idle & Drawing Resources

If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. 2 Thessalonians 3:10

- 1 Timothy 5: Young People on the Benevolence List
- Lack Nothing = Require Nothing

Thessalonians: Model Behavior—part 4
1 Thessalonians 4:3
God's Will for Your Life

Possible "God's Will" Issues: marriage, career, new job, move, relationship, church, college, problem, medical, purchase, investments...

Unbiblical methods determine God's will: Anything clearly against Scripture, psychics/horoscopes, what "feels" good, the easiest path, the expedient way, ignoring godly counsel, "It may not be right, but I'll deal with it/fix it later", randomly cracking open my Bible, read, & copy...

Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:17-18

Truth: God wants you to know His will.

Truth: The worst time to make the decision = When you are under the influence of something else.

God's Will:

1. Your Salvation [The Holy Spirit in You]

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9

The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous. Proverbs 15:29

2. An Already-Established Gratitude & Contentment

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.
James 4:3

3. Personal Moral Behavior/Sexual Morality

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality. 1 Thessalonians 4:3

4. Humble Submission

Therefore, submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men... 1 Peter 2:13-15

Radical Conclusion:

Truth: If all of these are true in your life, you can do whatever you want.

Truth: You can trust in the Holy Spirit in you.

Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

Jesus: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14
 What Happens to Christians Who Die?

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. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die... 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

- Everyone* is Going to Die
- Everyone is Going to be Resurrected
- Everyone is Going to Live Forever

Jesus: "But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.'" Matthew 22:31-32

Citation Context Notes:

- The Elect go Immediately to Heaven
- The Elect Remain Spirit Until the Rapture
- The Elect Receive New, Glorified Bodies at the Rapture
- The Elect Will Live Physically Forever in Glory

And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:59-60

We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8

For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Philippians 1:23

Then he [the thief on the cross] said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." Luke 23:42-43

- No Soul Sleep: 7th Day Adventism
- No Purgatory: Roman Catholicism
- No Annihilationism: Jehovah's Witness

What Happens to Non-Christians Who Die?

Jesus: "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side..."

Luke 16:19-31

- The Unsavd go Immediately to Hades
- The Unsavd Remain Spirit Until the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20)
- The Unsavd Receive New, Imperishable Bodies at the Great White Throne Judgment
- The Unsavd Will Live Physically Forever in the Lake of Fire

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 The Rapture of the Church

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. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

- Rapture (Latin) = "caught up"
- Greek: *harpazo*; violent, irresistible
- Acts 8:39 (Philip) and 2 Corinthians 12:2 & 4 (Paul)

I. The Reality of the Rapture

For this we say to you by the Word of the Lord... Verse 15

II. The Timing of the Rapture

- Between Revelation 3 and Revelation 4

*Jesus: "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth."
Revelation 3:10*

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here..." Revelation 4:1

- Nothing in the Prophet Timetable Remains, Except:

Jesus: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

- Israel is again a Nation
- The Pieces are in Place: One Economy, One Government, & One Religion

III. The Consequences of the Rapture

- The Union & A Reunion

Jesus: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:3

*God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus...
1 Thessalonians 4:14*

- Glorious Physiological Change

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

- The Believer's Judgment

*For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ...So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.
Romans 14:10 & 12 & 2 Corinthians 5:10*

- The Rapture Launches the Tribulation

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3
The Day of the Lord—Part 1

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves 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. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

End Times Timeline:

Rapture—Tribulation—2nd Coming—1000-Year Reign
—New Heaven & New Earth

1. The Day of the Lord:

- "Day" Always Singular. Context Always Plural
[Times vs. Time & Seasons vs. Season]
- A Generation
- A Period
- A Season
- A Day
- A Moment:

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And, the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west...Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You...It shall be one day which is known to the LORD. Zechariah 14:4-7

- "The Day of the Lord" used 19 Times in the Old Testament
- Each Should be Taken in Their Context
- Theme of Joel—Amos—Zephaniah

2. The Forbidden Church Word: "Wrath"

The LORD gives voice before His army, for His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His Word, For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?

Joel 2:11

- Romans 9: God's Glory is Revealed Equally in His Grace and in His Wrath.
- Malachi 4: "...the great and terrible Day of the Lord"

3. A Final "Day of the Lord"

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 2 Peter 3:10

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. Revelation 20:7-9

4. Our Task:

- Know and See the Signs
- Jesus: "You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times." Matthew 16:3*
- Be Ready
 - Preach the Gospel
 - Don't Establish Days, Dates, & Times

Bonus

Further Evidence of a Rapture: The Removal of Common Graces in God's Wrath.

What are Common Graces? Life, Patience, Provision, Rain, Joy, Love, Restraints on Evil.

What are the Restraints on Evil? Conscience, Family, Law/Government, the Church.

In Revelation = The Removal of Each

= The Removal of the Church

1 Thessalonians 5:4-7 The Day of the Lord—Part 2 A Difference of Night & Day

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 1 Thessalonians 5:4-7

1. Distinctive Nature

- | | | |
|---------|-------|-------|
| • Dark | Drunk | Sleep |
| • Light | Sober | Alert |

Nature of Man Truths:

- Only Two Camps/Possibilities
- No Neutral Parties
- One Father or Another: God or the Devil
- Dead or Alive
- Elect or Non-Elect

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. Ephesians 2:1-5

- | | | |
|---------|---------------|-------|
| • Dead | Flesh | Wrath |
| • Alive | <u>Spirit</u> | Mercy |

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. Ephesians 4:17-18

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------|------------------|
| • <u>Futility</u> | Darkened | <u>Blindness</u> |
| • Profitable | Light | Sight |

If Paul is the prince of Contrast...John is the king of Contrast

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. John 1:4-5

"One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see." John 9:25

The New Nature: *You are all sons of light and sons of the day.*

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11
The Day of the Lord—Part 3
Appropriate Church Clothing

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, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

I. Distinctive Nature

- Last Sunday: 1 Thessalonians 5:4-7—Day vs. Night
- Monergistic

II. Distinctive Behavior

- Synergistic: Cooperative

...Now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore, let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Romans 13:11-14

- What You "Put Off"
- What you "Put On"

- Breastplate: Guards the Heart
- Helmet: Guards the Mind

You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood... Ephesians 6:10-12

III. Distinctive Destiny

Q: How confident are you, now, that a Day of the Lord is coming upon the world, culminating in eternal judgment?

Truth: We can be equally confident that we have been delivered from the wrath through Christ.

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. Romans 5:9

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:1

Being confident of this very thing: that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6

Study Guide Homework: Question 8 (page 47) & 9 (page 48) & "Truth for Today" section (page 48)

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Shepherds & Sheep—Part 1

And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

1. Sheep Toward the Shepherds (Verses 12-13)

- Recognize
- Esteem
- Love
- Peace: Sheep Toward the Other Sheep

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us. Hebrews 13:17-18

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the Word and doctrine.

1 Timothy 5:17

2. Shepherds Toward the Sheep (Verse 14)

Truth I: There is No Perfect Church

Truth II: Sheep Wander. They Can be Temperamental.

Truth III: Various Species of Sheep

- Unruly: _____
- Fainthearted: _____

[Jesus] said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. Matthew 8:26

[Of Peter in Matthew 14]

- Weak: _____

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. 1 Corinthians 8:8-9

- Needy: _____

Strangest Question Jesus Ever Posed

When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" John 5:6

Truth IV: Increasing Sad Answer in our Culture is...

... "No...No, Thank You. Actually, I Identify by my Issue, Sin, or Problem. = Attention. = My Excuse."

3. Conduct for All (verses 15-18)

- Forgiveness & Grace
- Rejoicing
- Praying
- Thankfulness

1 Thessalonians 5:19-28
Shepherds & Sheep—Part 2
Essential Tools for Godly Victory

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. 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. Brethren, pray for us. Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

A. Do Not Quench the Spirit.

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit... Galatians 5:16-18

B. Do Not Despise Prophecies

I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:10

We have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, ...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:19-21

We contend: "Prophecy" and the "gift of prophecy" is Not new revelation. It is the preaching and expositing of already given revelation = the written Word of God.

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. Revelation 1:3

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book; if anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. Revelation 22:18-19

John Owen: "If private revelations agree with Scripture, they are needless. If they disagree [with Scripture], they are false."

C. [Do] Test All Things

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1

Everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the Word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. Hebrews 5:13-14 (ESV)

D. [Do] Hold Fast What is Good.

E. [Do] Abstain From Every Form of Evil

23.

2 Thessalonians 1:1-5
A Model Church in a Depraved Culture
—Thank Goodness—

Paul, Silas, and Timothy: To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer. 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5

1. Authentic Salvation (verse 1)

...the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...

Jesus: "I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." John 17:23

2. Increasing Faith (verse 3)

... because your faith grows exceedingly...

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Romans 10:17

3. Abounding Love (verses 3-4)

...the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God...

Jesus: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

4. Holy Endurance (verse 4)

...for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure...

And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Romans 5:3-4

5. Kingdom Minded (verse 5)

...which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer.

I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12-14

Homework: Study Guide pages 61-63. Question 1 (page 64) & Question 11 (page 67)

2 Thessalonians 1:6-12
The Vengeance of the Lord—Part 1

It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

Truth Set #1: God

- Repay
- Tribulation
- Vengeance
- Punished
- Destruction

Truth Set #2: The World/Culture

- Those who Troubled You
- Those who Do Not Know God
- Those who Do Not Obey the Gospel

Important: What, then, is the Gospel?

Gospel Fallacies: Be kind. Do unto others. Be sincere. Be generous. Social justice. Do your best. Follow these rules, rituals, and religion. God has provided many different forms and paths.

Gospel Accuracy: There is a God, and He has Revealed Himself Exclusively Through His Word.

That Word States:

God is Holy and Cannot Accept Anything Other than His Level of Holiness.

Man's Total and Universal Sin Resulting in an *Utter Inability* to Save Self: Works, Religion, Being Better than Others or Better than my Old Self.

A Savior: Exclusive Substitute, Fully God, Fully Man, Resurrected, & Returning

For He [the Father] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him [Jesus]. 2 Corinthians 5:21

I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that Word...*For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...*
1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Grace: Imputation, Repent, Faith, Believe, & Surrender.

Authenticity Evidence: Radical Change, A New View, A Hate for Sin, A Life for Him, & An Empowered Ministry

Truth Set #3: The Elect/the Church

- Rest
- Glorified
- Admired
- Believed

Homework: "Keys to the Text" (page 62) & Question 3 (page 64)

2 Thessalonians 1:6-12
The Vengeance of the Lord—Part 2
The Wrath of God Most Clearly Seen

It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord...

2 Thessalonian 1:6-9 (NKJV)

Last Sunday's Truth Set #1: God

- Repay
- Tribulation
- Vengeance
- Punished
- Destruction

For the wages of sin is death. Romans 6:23

Without [the] shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
Hebrews 9:22

Jesus: "For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins." Matthew 26:28

Our Scriptural Contention: The Greatest Display of
God's Wrath: Calvary's Cross

1. Propitiation: Acceptable, to satisfy, Full Payment, the Required Price.

Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our peace fell upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But Yahweh has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him...But Yahweh was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief; If You would place His soul as a guilt offering, He will see His seed, He will prolong His days, and the good pleasure of Yahweh will succeed in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied.

Isaiah 53:4-6 & 10-11

2. The Ugly Events of the Substitution: Anguish, Alone, Conscious Foreknowledge, Scorn, Punishment, Scourging, Display, Surrounded, Torment, Death Process, Darkness, Separation, Unquenchable Thirst, & Hell.

Jesus Christ, whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith, for a demonstration of His righteousness... Romans 3:25

[Also in Hebrews 2:17, 1 John 2:2, & 1 John 4:10]

3. God's Dual Nature Preserved

...to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
Romans 3:26 (NKJV)

2 Thessalonians 1:6-12
The Vengeance of the Lord—Part 3
Tribulation or Rest

It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord...

2 Thessalonian 1:6-9 (NKJV)

Truth Set #2: The World/Culture

- Physical Death: Sickness/Illness, Violence, & Process.

Process of Christ's Atonement: Anguish, Alone, Conscious Foreknowledge, Scorn, Punishment, Scourging, Display, Surrounded, Torment, Death Process, Darkness, Separation, & Unquenchable Thirst.

"In Hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away... "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' "But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things. But now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony." Luke 16:22-26

- Consciousness, Awareness, Receptors, Vision, Memory, Feeling, Torment, Separation, Unquenchable Thirst, & Hopelessness. Foreknowledge of Hell for 1000 Years.

Process of the World's Judgment:

- 7-Year Tribulation = Systematic Removal of Common Graces.
- Great White Throne Judgment

And the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds...And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:12-15

"And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night..." Revelation 14:11

Truth Set #3: The Elect

Rest from:

- Persecution
- Works/Endless Religion

Jesus: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28

- Fear of Death

He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. Hebrews 2:14-15

- Battle with Sin (Enemy/Temptation/Failure)
- Cursed World
- Longing for Reunion

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not been manifested as yet what we will be. We know that when He is [appears], we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 1 John 3:2

2 Thessalonians 1:6-12
The Vengeance of the Lord—Part 4
Tribulation or Rest

It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord...

2 Thessalonian 1:6-9 (NKJV)

Truth Set #1: God (Godhead/Trinity)

Truth Set #2: The World/the Culture

Truth Set #3: The Elect

Rest from:

- Persecution

And a white robe was given to each of them; and it was told to them that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow slaves and their brothers who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

Revelation 6:11

- Works/Endless Religion

Jesus: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28

- Any Fear of Death

He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. Hebrews 2:14-15

- The Battle with Sin (Enemy/Temptation/Failure)

- This Cursed World

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

Revelation 21:4-5 (NKJV)

- An Internal Longing for Reunion

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not been manifested as yet what we will be. We know that when He [appears], we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 1 John 3:2

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 The Man of Sin—Part 1

Let no one in any way deceive you, for it [the Day of the Lord] has not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the sanctuary of God, exhibiting himself as being God...For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work... And then that lawless one will be revealed—whom the Lord Jesus will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming—whose coming is in accord with the working of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of unrighteousness for those who perish... 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10

Truth Set #4: Satan and His Crew

- Director/Producer: Satan, Devil, the Dragon
- Leading Role: The Antichrist

Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared. From this we know that it is the last hour. 1 John 2:18

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. 2 John 7

Other Names: Beast, Little Horn, Lawlessness, Sin, Perdition, & Destruction.

Description: A Blended Beast, Political/Military, Economic, & Religious. He is Boastful, Blasphemous, a Copycat, & an Imposter.

And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore...and on his heads were blasphemous names. And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority. And I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain fatally, and his fatal wound was healed. And the whole earth marveled and followed after the beast. And they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast... Revelation 13:1-4

- Supporting Actor: The False Prophet
- Supporting Actress: The Harlot = Religious Apostasy

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy... 1 Timothy 4:1-2 (NKJV)

Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 1 John 2:22

...every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. 1 John 4:3

- Cast of Extras: The Demons

[Homework from Study Guide: pages 69-72. All Questions]

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
The Man of Sin—Part 2

A. How to Conquer a People Without Firing a Shot:

Intrigue

[A Nation, an Ideology, a Movement, a Cause, a Corporation, a Community, a Family, a Marriage, a Friendship, & a Church.]

B. The Spirit of Antichrist:

A king will stand, insolent and skilled in intrigue. Daniel 8:23

- Deception
- Discord
- Division

- i. Make Them Abandon Unity for Opinion.
- ii. The Apostasy Takes Place in the Church.
- iii. The World has Already & Always Fallen Away.

C. Just in the Last Week:

Guns, Elections, Vaccinations, Abortion, LBGTQ, Immigration, Race and Justice, & the Role of the Church, Participation in the National Anthem.

If I have graciously forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his schemes.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

God's View & Warning

There are six things which Yahweh hates, even seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked thoughts, feet that hasten to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who spreads strife among brothers. Proverbs 6:16-19

Notes: _____

Through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in this: "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." But if you bite and devour one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another. Galatians 5:13-15

Notes: _____

Therefore I, the prisoner in the Lord, exhort you to walk worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-5

Notes: _____

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. Ephesians 4:26-27

Notes: _____

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
The Man of Sin—Part 3

That lawless one will be revealed...whose coming is in accord with the working of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of unrighteousness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. And for this reason, God sends upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in unrighteousness.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

God's Judgment thru Satan's Schemes

1. Supply Deception:

- Science:
- Stardom:
- Size:
- Signs:

Then a spirit came forward and stood before Yahweh and said, 'I will entice him.' And Yahweh said to him, 'How?' "And he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' Then He said, 'You shall entice him and also prevail. Go out and do so.' "So now, behold, Yahweh has put a lying spirit in the mouth of these your prophets, but Yahweh has spoken calamity against you." 2 Chronicles 18:20-22 [1 Kings 22]

2. Create Chaos:

- Division
- Fear
- Lawlessness
- Hero

Behold, a white horse, and he who sits on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out overcoming and to overcome. Revelation 6:2

And the whole earth marveled and followed after the beast. And they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast...?" Revelation 13:3-4

3. Grant Wishes:

- Human Solutions
- Celebrated Sin
- Remove Restraints [Common Graces]

[God]: "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them...in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also"...[Samuel said to the people] "Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but Yahweh will not answer you in that day."...Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, "No, but there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." 1 Samuel 8:7-20

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons... 1 Timothy 4:1

31.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
The Man of Sin—Part 4

Let no one in any way deceive you, for it has not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the sanctuary of God, exhibiting himself as being God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. And then that lawless one will be revealed... 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8

Intrigue, Deception, & Israel

Jesus: "Many false prophets will arise and will deceive many. And because lawlessness is multiplied, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in the whole world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. Therefore, when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Matthew 24:11-16

1-Sphere of Religion

2-Daniel -Israel & the Word of God

3-Judea—Jerusalem & the Temple

Gabriel: "The people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are decreed. And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will make sacrifice and grain offering cease; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

Daniel 9:26-27

"The people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary." [Rome—70 A.D.]

"The prince who is to come..." [= Antichrist]

"a covenant with many" [resulting in a Temple]

"for one week" [week of years = 7 years]

"in the middle...cease" [½- way = 3 ½ years]

"abominations...makes desolate" [= his image in the Temple]

And he [the false prophets] deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which were given to him to do in the presence of the beast [the Antichrist], telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast [in the Temple] to be killed.

Revelation 13:14-15

The "Restraining Debate":

- The Church
- Angelic Forces
- God the Holy Spirit

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Be Ready—Be Strong

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth. It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Or: Don't Be Insecure—Don't Be Weak

I. Your Relationship with Christ (verses 14 & 16)

Jesus: "And do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. "Are not two sparrows sold for a [copper coin]? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows." Matthew 10:28-31

Your Topic of Focus: _____

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
Hebrews 13:8

Jesus: "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out...Now this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

John 6:37-40

II. Your Relationship with Scripture (verses 14, 15 & 17)

And we have as more sure the prophetic Word, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.
2 Peter 1:19

An Estranged Relationship: Forget, Misuse, Lack of Exposure, or Lack of Exercise

III. Your Relationship with Election (verse 13)

Those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers; and those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified.
Romans 8:29-30

IV. Your Relationship with Prayer (Verses 16 & 17)

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NKJV)

Thanksgiving Silences Fear

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Your Job—My Job—His Job

Finally, brothers, pray for us that the Word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you; and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men, for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, who will strengthen and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will continue to do what we command. And may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the steadfastness of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

1. Your Job

- Pray
- Obeying What has been Commanded: Conduct

Obey your leaders and submit to them—for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account—so that they will do this with joy and not with groaning, for this would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us... Hebrews 13:17-18

- Doing What has Been Asked: Ministry

2. My Job

- Preach the Whole Word of God.

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom; preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and teaching. 2 Timothy 4:1-2

- Guard the Faith & Encourage the Flock

...perverse and evil men, for not all have faith...

“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.” Acts 20:28-30

3. His Job

- Rescue & Protect:

What do we need protection from?

The Evil One (verse 3)

Evil Men (verse 2)

Our Former Evil Selves

Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Romans 7:24-25

- Provide Direction

And may the Lord direct your hearts... (verse 5)

- Remind us of the Scriptures

Jesus: “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.” John 14:26

- Lead in the Love & Steadfastness of Christ

1-Endurance in Suffering

2-Patience in His Return

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12 The Doctrine of Work

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who walks in an unruly manner and not according to the tradition which they received from us...For even when we were with you, we used to command this to you: if anyone is not willing to work, neither let him eat. For we hear that some among you are walking in an unruly manner, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ, that working with quietness, they eat their own bread.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 & 10-12

- "Unruly" 3X
- Disorderly/Out of Rank/Rebellious/Inappropriate/AWOL
- Busybodies
- Idleness Results in Progressive Transgression

But refuse to put younger widows on the list...And at the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house. And not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention. 1 Timothy 5:11-13

Upside Down Entitlement

1. Paul's Example:

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we did not act in an unruly manner among you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you;...

...not because we do not have the authority, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would imitate us.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-9

2. Paul's Authority or Right

The elders who lead well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor at preaching the word and teaching. 1 Timothy 5:17 (LSB & NKJV)

[Deuteronomy 25:4 & Luke 10:7]

So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the Gospel to get their living from the Gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:14

Redefining Disability: Bringing the World into the Church

- Church Policy: Refuse

...if anyone is not willing to work, neither let him eat. Verse 10

- Church Discipline: Remove

...you keep away from every brother who walks in an unruly manner... Verse 6 (& 14)

- Church Goal: Restore

Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority, so that on the contrary you should rather graciously forgive and comfort him, lest such a one be swallowed up by excessive sorrow. Therefore, I encourage you to reaffirm your love for him. 2 Corinthians 2:6-8