

Bethel Bible Series

1 & 2 Thessalonians

NT Study 13

*Paul's letters are models of how to treat others:
You must first establish a common ground for the relationship. - PK*

Welcome

Opening - What are the three elements of faith and why are each important?
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week - Faith

Benefits of Faith (*Hebrews 11*) - Through faith:

We receive the greatest blessing of eternal salvation
Faith is credited as righteousness, Enoch did not experience death
Understanding is enlarged
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge
Blessings are given
Rewards, sins are forgiven, requests granted, nothing is impossible
Divine Responsibilities are accepted
Abel's better sacrifice, Noah built ark, Abram went and Abraham offered Isaac
God's Plan is understood
Patriarchs saw promises, Isaac and Jacob blessed sons, Joseph told of exodus
Persecution is tolerated
Moses chose mistreatment as an Israelite, Others were tortured, stoned
Fear and Frustration are calmed
Moses' parents, Moses left Egypt and kept the Passover, we have peace
Miracles are produced
Healing, Abraham became a father, Red Sea was crossed, Jericho walls fell
Victories are won
Faith of judges, kings and prophets

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1 = *Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see*

Faith - Picture Concepts

Three Hands = The 3 elements of an adult faith

Notitia = Knowledge

Assensus = Assent

Fiducia = Trust

Dead Wreath by Notitia = Knowledge alone does not constitute faith

Dead Wreath by Assensus = Combination of knowledge and assent are not faith

Flowered Wreath by Fiducia = With knowledge, assent and trust, faith is born

White Flowers on Wreath = Faith becomes purer as KA&T grow deeper and stronger

Spiral of light around upper hand = Faith is a gift of God

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Lesson - 1 & 2 Thessalonians

Thessalonica

Capital of Roman province of Macedonia (Northeastern Greece)
Important naval base and commercial harbor town
On *Via Egnatia*, the main road connecting Rome to the East

God Sends Paul to Thessalonica = See map on page 3

Why did Paul head to Troas instead of west to Asia or north to Bithynia on his second journey?

Acts 16:6-8 = The Spirit stopped him and guided him through Mysia

Why did Paul go to Europe instead of circling back through Asia after reaching Troas?

Acts 16:9-10 = God led him to Macedonia in a vision

Did Paul know where he was going?

Acts 16:11-12 = No, followed God's lead, rode a ship that took him to Philippi

What happened to Paul in the Roman colony of Philippi?

Acts 16:14, 18, 23 = Lydia was first European convert, jailed for exorcising slave girl's demon

Where did Paul go after the leaders learned he was a Roman citizen and released him?

Acts 16:40-17:1 = Down the Egnatian Way (*Via Egnatia*) to Thessalonica

God Works Through Paul in Thessalonica

How was Paul and the gospel received in Thessalonica? = Stayed 3 weeks (v2)

Acts 17:2-4 = Some Jews and Greeks believed, others did not

How did the Thessalonian Jews who didn't believe try to stop Paul?

Acts 17:5-9 = Couldn't find Paul so they attacked Jason who had opened his home to Paul

God Sends Paul Further

What did Paul do when he found that his presence could hinder the gospel in Thessalonica?

Acts 17:10-12 = Went down the road to Berea and immediately began working

Was the 50-mile distance to Berea far enough to stop the trouble in Thessalonica?

Acts 17:13-15 = No, so Paul went on to Athens, Timothy and Silas stayed in Berea

Where did Paul go after Athens and how was he updated on the situation in Thessalonica?

Acts 18:1, 5, 11 = Paul taught in Corinth 1.5 yrs, Silas and Timothy joined him there

Paul and the Thessalonians

How did Paul feel about leaving Thessalonica so soon after starting work there?

1 Thessalonians 2:17-18 = Intensely longed to return but was prevented by Satan

What did Paul do to help strengthen and encourage the baby Thessalonian Christians?

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5 = Sent Timothy to check up on and encourage them

What did Paul learn from Timothy's visit?

1 Thessalonians 3:6-8 = They were standing firm in their faith and love

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First Thessalonians

Banner and Two Quills = Two of Paul's letters were to the Thessalonians

First Quill = First letter to Thessalonians, Written in Corinth, 51AD (2nd of Paul's letters after Galatians)

Paul Praises the Thessalonians

Quill is Red = Praised for courage and steadfastness in face of persecution

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 = Works from faith, labor from love, endurance from hope

1 Thessalonians 1:7-8 = Faith became a model to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia

1 Thessalonians 2:1-2; 1:6 = They imitated Paul in suffering for the gospel

1 Thessalonians 2:14-16 = They imitated Judean churches in local persecution

Four Problems Addressed

1 Thessalonians 2:3-8 (3-13) = Paul's ministry and message were under attack as a fake

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (3-8) = Sexual immorality - influences from sexual pagan religions (?)

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 = Some stopped working, thinking that Jesus would return any day

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 = Church leaders were not properly respected

Admonition to Work

Figures Laying Stone Blocks = Instructed to be steadfast in their work

Philippians 3:20 = Early Christians expected Christ to return during their lifetime

1 Thessalonians 2:9 = Paul reminded them how he worked while he was with them

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 = Paul instructed them to work and be dependent on no one

1 Thessalonians 5:14 = Warn those who are idle

The Dead in Christ

Grave = Paul answered "What happens to those who die before Christ returns?"

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 = Christ's resurrection means the dead in Christ will rise

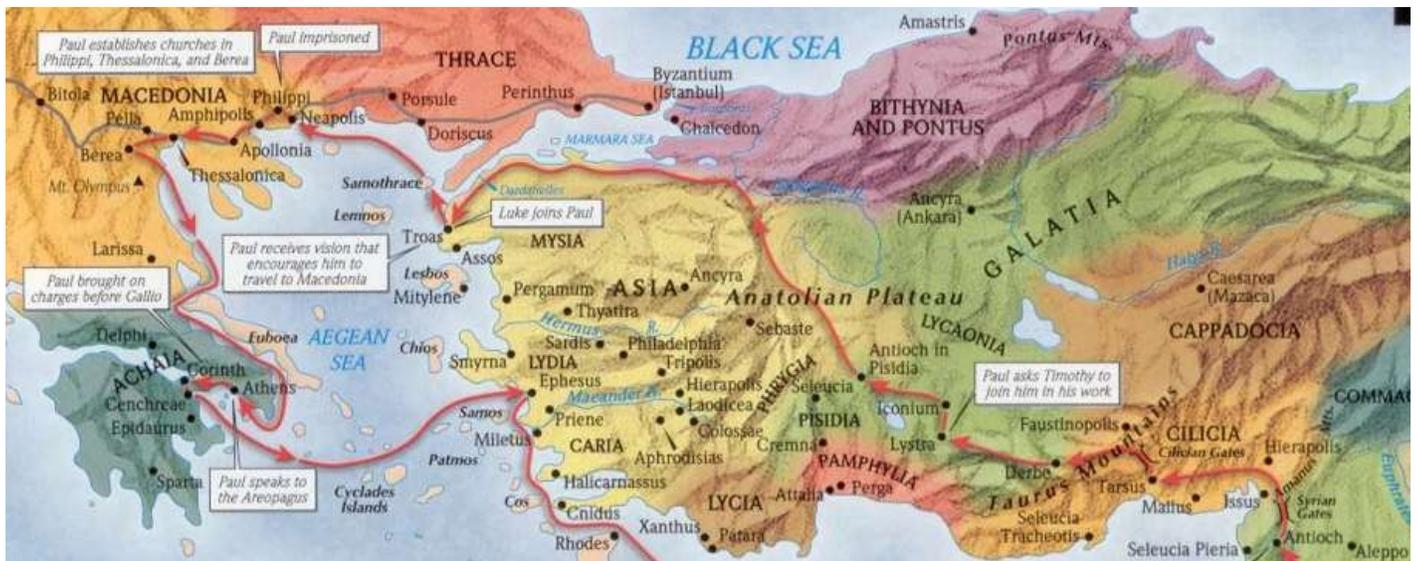
1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 = The dead will rise first, the living faithful will be taken up alive

Second Coming of Christ

Figure Looking Upward = Explanations were given about Christ's Second Coming

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 = No one knows when Christ will return, it will be a surprise

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11 = Don't be afraid or anxious about His return, build each other up



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Second Thessalonians

Second Quill = Second letter to Thessalonians, Written in Corinth, ~52AD (within year)

Occasion of the Letter

Quill is Blue = Concern over misconceptions about Christ's Second Coming

2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 = They were confused by false teachings ascribed to Paul

Events Preceding Christ's Second Coming

Throne and Serpent = Describes specific events and circumstances before return

2 Thessalonians 2:3 = First deception, rebellion and man of lawlessness is revealed

2 Thessalonians 2:4 = Man of lawlessness will set himself up as God

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 = Works of fake miracles, signs and wonders; all sorts of evil

Timing of Christ's Second Coming

Sundial = Concern over church's emphasis on time of Christ's return

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 = God is holding back the lawless one until the proper time

Admonition to Work

Shovel and Trowel = Rebukes members who have abandoned their work

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 = The idle should work and earn the bread they eat

2 Thessalonians 3:7-10 = Paul reminds them of the example he gave while with them

2 Thessalonians 3:6,14-15 = Keep away from those who are idle, warn them as brothers

Summary

Banner and Two Quills = Two of Paul's letters were to the Thessalonians

First Quill = Paul's 1st letter to Thessalonians, Timothy returned with good report

Quill is Red = Praised for courage and steadfastness in face of persecution

Figures Laying Stone Blocks = Instructed to be steadfast in their work

Grave = Paul answers "What happens to those who die before Christ returns?"

Figure Looking Upward = Explanations are given about Christ's Second Coming

Second Quill = Paul's 2nd letter to Thessalonians, Written a few months after 1st

Quill is Blue = Concern over misconceptions about Christ's Second Coming

Throne and Serpent = Describes specific events and circumstances before return

Sundial = Concern over church's emphasis on time of Christ's return

Shovel and Trowel = Rebukes members who have abandoned their work

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 13 and Assignment 14

Next Week - 1 & 2 Corinthians