

Seven Bible Studies 2017

Epistles

July 23: I Thessalonians 1-3 (Ryan Ingle)

Sunday, July 23, '17 ~ Thessalonians 1 - 3

Good morning! Yet another blessed Lord's Day we have been given to help remind us of the great sacrifice that was made for each of us!! Let us rejoice in this blessing and not take it for granted!!

We are studying a new book written from Paul around 51 AD. In order to understand this letter, I would recommend you do a little extra reading from Acts 17: 1 - 9 regarding Paul's visit originally to Thessalonica. He joined the Jews in the synagogue three different Sabbath days to persuade all in attendance of Christ's death and resurrection. Some Jews were persuaded while others weren't.

“But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: “These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar’s decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus.” When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil.”

(Acts 17:6-8).

So this letter was written as at first Paul was concerned thinking possibly the people there would lose faith with all the uproar caused in Thessalonica but as Timothy was sent out to report back to Paul, Paul finds great reassurance in Timothy's message.

Ch 1

Paul's excitement is well displayed here in the first chapter. The key verses to take from chapter 1 I think are “You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it,” (6 - 8)

Paul continues in telling them the message has spread to others of how they stopped worshipping idols and replaced it with worshipping the true living God.

Ch 2

Paul states their message was not in vain. It was well received by them. There was opposition to their message but it didn't slow them down or cause them to "water down" the message. Paul states frankly that their message is directly from God and His approval. Paul states their message was delivered with love and not malice intent like others would try.

Paul mentions the fact that they worked extra hard just so they wouldn't require the help and support from them. He references a parent-child relationship here in verses 11 - 12 "For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory." Train up a child....is just the same as training up an adult here...

“For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God’s churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone” (14-15)

I just found this to be an interesting reference here of "the churches" suffering. I know it would have been difficult going through this transition time...especially having the Jews to contend with. I just don't see how at this time the Jews would have any doubt they killed the true messiah after seeing the veil torn in two, the darkness and everything else that happened during the death of Christ.

Paul wraps up the chapter by stating how he misses and longs to be with the them but acknowledges Satan is standing in the way. Paul, however, many times has also acknowledged his prisoner time as being beneficial in many ways as well.

“For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy.” (19-20)

Ch 3

Paul states that he sent Timothy to find out how things were going for the Thessalonians since he could not see them first hand. He was very apprehensive thinking they could be lost due to how much resistance there was from the Jews against Paul's message. Paul didn't know how they would handle the persecution but when he received Timothy's report he was very delighted to find they were doing well.

Timothy reported of all the fond memories they had for Paul, Silas and Timothy and how they longed once again to see them. The same is felt towards them. The apostles continue to pray for them during this time.

“May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.” (3:13).

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, brother Randy! May you have a great day in the LORD!

Replies:

Ryan Ingle:

You as well brother!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thanks for sharing your research and thoughts on today's study, Ryan! Lots of great verses in these 3 chapters. If I'm ever writing a card to faithful brethren this is one place I would go to collect words of encouragement.

July 30: 1 Thessalonians 4-5 (Ryan Ingle)

Sunday, July 30 ~ 1 Thessalonians 4 - 5

Good Lord's Day morning to all!

We are scheduled to read chapters 4 & 5. In chapter 4 Paul states they should continue to follow Paul's instruction, as they already have been doing, even more earnestly. "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor," (3-4). Paul makes it very clear that even though worldly people may practice sexual immorality, they were to treat their body's of the utmost purity. Don't take advantage of others and understand that it won't be man, but God, whom you will fear for violating this instruction.

Vs 9 - 12 Paul complements them for the love they have already shown for others but encourages them again to continue even harder in that love. Keep your nose down and work hard! Be an example for those not in the body of Christ by their actions, which will earn their respect in their doing so. Great advice for all of us:) If you think you are doing something well for Christ, Paul here would encourage you to try even harder... Don't be content but always improve yourself!!!

Paul finishes of the chapter addressing one of their concerns regarding the death of those who proceeded them in death. Paul reassures them that those who were following God's law will not only be raised when the trumpet sounds, but will proceed them who are living, with Christ in the clouds as we all will then be reunited together forever to be with Christ. Hallelujah!!!

Ch 5

Paul continues addressing their final concerns. He tell the Thessalonica people that the end times will come like a thief in the night. When everyone is proclaiming peace and safety, everything is good, no need to worry about your salvation, that's when the end times will be. Even worse then labor pains...

These times won't fool those who are faithful to Christ like they were... They are of light, not darkness. They don't go out like those who get drunk at night do but instead shine in the light of day. "But let us, since we are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God appointed us not unto wrath, but unto the obtaining of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ," (8-9). We should live in Him in such a way to glorify Christ by shining our light into the dark world who is lost in their darkness. Christ did not die for us so that we would forever be lost, without any hope, but so those who are both awake and asleep have the hope of salvation. Paul basically states not to worry about them as they have that same salvation as they have.

Paul goes on to state that should show their true gratitude to those who work hard in Christ. Hold them in the highest regard. Help encourage those who are weak or struggling. Those who are tired or disheartened, encourage and strengthen them. Show your love to all through your patience with them. Also, make sure no one pays evil for evil.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (16-18) True advice that all of us should take to heart and follow! We don't do this enough... If you believe you do pray enough and give thanks, then based off these two chapters, Paul would tell you to do it even more!

Don't get too haughty about thinking your doing everything correct in the Lord is the message I get from these two chapters. Paul states they were doing a great job but to keep it up and strive to be even better.

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, Ryan!

Replies:

Ryan Ingle:

You are most welcome Butch O'Neal. You have a blessed LORD'S Day!!

Butch O'Neal:

Thanks again, and I pray the very same for you, Ryan Ingle!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

Thanks, Ryan! This set of scriptures has provided great encouragement to many Christians, not just the Thessalonians. How we long for the Lord's return and grand reunion with his saints! I always appreciate the instruction we have here to be joyful always and give thanks in all circumstances "for this is God's will for you."

Replies:

Ryan Ingle:

Well said! Paul was very much delighted the Thessalonians were doing so well given their situation.