

THE R.U.S.H. BIBLE STUDY

1ST THESSALONIANS



KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY FIRST EDITION 2020 VER.26

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1 Thessalonians

Paul has heard a good report on the church at Thessalonica, and encourages them to “excel still more” in faith, hope, and love.

Author: Paul

In 1 Thessalonians – Jesus is our Comfort and Hope

1 Thessalonians 5:11

"Encourage one another and build each other up."



TEACHER: 5 CHAPTERS

Paul planted this church after preaching in the local synagogue for 3 weeks while he stayed with a friend named Jason who lived there, according to Acts 17. He converted many members of the synagogue to Christ and had to leave in a hurry when the Jews contended with him. He did eventually send Timothy, and since Timothy was going there anyway, Paul sent this letter along with him. Paul makes frequent mention of the rapture and the after-life here as the Jewish people in Thessalonica were influenced by the Sadducee sect of Jewish tradition.

STUDENT:

CH. 1

From Paul, Silas, and Timothy—

To the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

May grace and peace be yours.

²We always thank God for you all and always mention you in our prayers. ³For we remember before our God and Father how you put your faith into practice, how your love made you work so hard, and how your hope in our Lord Jesus Christ is firm. ⁴Our friends, we know that God loves you and has chosen you to be his own. ⁵For we brought the Good News to you, not with words only, but also with power and the Holy Spirit, and with complete conviction of its truth. (GNT)

TEACHER:

After Paul left, the persecution continued, and Paul commends them for their faith and steadfastness. You will also want to listen for the 1st mention of the coming of our Lord in this next segment.

STUDENT:

⁷ So you became an example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia.
⁸ For not only did the message about the Lord go out from you throughout Macedonia and Achaia, but the news about your faith in God has gone everywhere. There is nothing, then, that we need to say. ⁹ All those people speak about how you received us when we visited you, and how you turned away from idols to God, to serve the true and living God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son to come from heaven—his Son Jesus, whom he raised from death and who rescues us from God's anger that is coming. (GNT)

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



He will come with his mighty terminator angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction. **1 Thes 1:8,9**
SCI-FI Translation

TEACHER:

In chapter 2 we see that Paul came to Thessalonica from the church in Philippi, and the trip was well spent.

CH. 2

STUDENT:

Our friends, you yourselves know that our visit to you was not a failure. ² You know how we had already been mistreated and insulted in Philippi before we came to you in Thessalonica. And even though there was much opposition, our God gave us courage to tell you the Good News that comes from him. ³ Our appeal to you is not based on error or impure motives, nor do we try to trick anyone. ⁴ Instead, we always speak as God wants us to, because he has judged us worthy to be entrusted with the Good News. We do not try to please people, but to please God, who tests our motives. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Moving down to verse 10 Paul refreshes their memory.

STUDENT:

¹⁰ You are our witnesses, and so is God, that our conduct toward you who believe was pure, right, and without fault. ¹¹ You know that we treated each one of you just as parents treat their own children. ¹² We encouraged you, we comforted you, and we kept urging you to live the kind of life that pleases God, who calls you to share in his own Kingdom and glory. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Paul then relates that even Satan himself prevented Paul from coming to visit them.

STUDENT:

¹⁷ As for us, friends, when we were separated from you for a little while—not in our thoughts, of course, but only in body—how we missed you and how hard we tried to see you again! ¹⁸ We wanted to return to you. I myself tried to go back more than once, but Satan would not let us. ¹⁹ After all, it is you—you, no less than others!—who are our hope, our joy, and our reason for boasting of our victory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes. ²⁰ Indeed, you are our pride and our joy! (GNT)

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TEACHER:

So Paul gives up, and decides to send Timothy with a letter for them. Paul blames the devil and I certainly agree as the Bible is inspired by God, but I must think God used it so Timothy's ministry could expand in Greece. In fact he would eventually become the Pastor of the church in Ephesus. Timothy was quite the zealot for Christ. When he was 80 years old they had a parade in Ephesus for the "goddess Diana" marching down the streets. He tries to block the parade in front of thousands of people by standing in their way preaching repentance in Jesus name. They beat him and dragged him through the streets, and when he still wouldn't be quiet, they stoned him to death. He was 80. I really like him. On to Chapter 3

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CH. 3

STUDENT:

Finally, we could not bear it any longer. So we decided to stay on alone in Athens ² while we sent Timothy, our brother who works with us for God in preaching the Good News about Christ. We sent him to strengthen you and help your faith, ³ so that none of you should turn back because of these persecutions. You yourselves know that such persecutions are part of God's will for us. ⁴ For while we were still with you, we told you ahead of time that we were going to be persecuted; and as you well know, that is exactly what happened. ⁵ That is why I had to send Timothy. I could not bear it any longer, so I sent him to find out about your faith. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Timothy returns with good news.

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STUDENT:

⁶ Now Timothy has come back, and he has brought us the welcome news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always think well of us and that you want to see us just as much as we want to see you. ⁷ So, in all our trouble and suffering we have been encouraged about you, friends. It was your faith that encouraged us, ⁸ because now we really live if you stand firm in your life in union with the Lord. ⁹ Now we can give thanks to our God for you. We thank him for the joy we have in his presence because of you. ¹⁰ Day and night we ask him with all our heart to let us see you personally and supply what is needed in your faith. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

As Paul continues, we have another mention of the Lord's return.

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STUDENT:

¹¹ May our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus prepare the way for us to come to you! ¹² May the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow more and more and become as great as our love for you. ¹³ In this way he will strengthen you, and you will be perfect and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all who belong to him. (GNT)

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TEACHER:

Paul then counsels them to have good strong marriages.

STUDENT:

Finally, our friends, you learned from us how you should live in order to please God. This is, of course, the way you have been living. And now we beg and urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to do even more. ² For you know the instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³ God wants you to be holy and completely free from sexual immorality. ⁴ Each of you should know how to live with your wife in a holy and honorable way, (GNT)

STUDENT:

⁵ not with a lustful desire, like the heathen who do not know God. ⁶ In this matter, then, none of you should do wrong to other Christians or take advantage of them. We have told you this before, and we strongly warned you that the Lord will punish those who do that. ⁷ God did not call us to live in immorality, but in holiness. ⁸ So then, whoever rejects this teaching is not rejecting a human being, but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Then he counsels us to take that testimony outside the home and to the world as well.

STUDENT:

⁹ There is no need to write you about love for each other. You yourselves have been taught by God how you should love one another. ¹⁰ And you have, in fact, behaved like this toward all the believers in all of Macedonia. So we beg you, our friends, to do even more. ¹¹ Make it your aim to live a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to earn your own living, just as we told you before. ¹² In this way you will win the respect of those who are not believers, and you will not have to depend on anyone for what you need. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Paul finishes the chapter with another mention of the rapture.

STUDENT:

¹³ Our friends, we want you to know the truth about those who have died, so that you will not be sad, as are those who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will take back with Jesus those who have died believing in him.

¹⁵ What we are teaching you now is the Lord's teaching: we who are alive on the day the Lord comes will not go ahead of those who have died. ¹⁶ There will be the shout of command, the archangel's voice, the sound of God's trumpet, and the Lord himself will come down from heaven. Those who have died believing in Christ will rise to life first; ¹⁷ then we who are living at that time will be gathered up along with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ So then, encourage one another with these words. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Paul then encourages them to be ready for that day in chapter 5.

STUDENT:

There is no need to write you, friends, about the times and occasions when these things will happen. ²For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come as a thief comes at night. ³When people say, "Everything is quiet and safe," then suddenly destruction will hit them! It will come as suddenly as the pains that come upon a woman in labor, and people will not escape. ⁴But you, friends, are not in the darkness, and the Day should not take you by surprise like a thief.

STUDENT:

⁵All of you are people who belong to the light, who belong to the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶So then, we should not be sleeping like the others; we should be awake and sober. ⁷It is at night when people sleep; it is at night when they get drunk. ⁸But we belong to the day, and we should be sober. We must wear faith and love as a breastplate, and our hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹God did not choose us to suffer his anger, but to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us in order that we might live together with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Paul ends the letter encouraging them (and us) to respect those in the ministry,

STUDENT:

¹²We beg you, our friends, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. ¹³Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴We urge you, our friends, to warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. (GNT)

STUDENT:

¹⁶Be joyful always, ¹⁷pray at all times, ¹⁸be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not restrain the Holy Spirit; ²⁰do not despise inspired messages. ²¹Put all things to the test: keep what is good ²²and avoid every kind of evil. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Don't restrain the Holy Spirit by denying inspirational messages, but, put them to the test. Good advice. Paul's final words encourage the reading and sharing of this letter along with a final word on the Rapture.

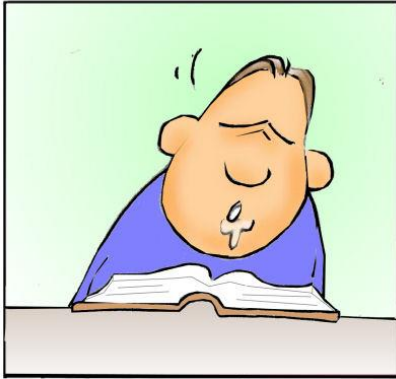
STUDENT:

²³May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being—spirit, soul, and body—free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you will do it, because he is faithful. ²⁵Pray also for us, friends. ²⁶Greet all the believers with the kiss of peace. ²⁷I urge you by the authority of the Lord to read this letter to all the believers. ²⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (GNT)

NEXT LESSON 2st THESSALONIANS

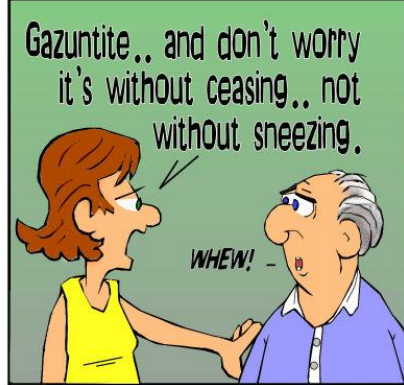
"In everything give thanks..." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



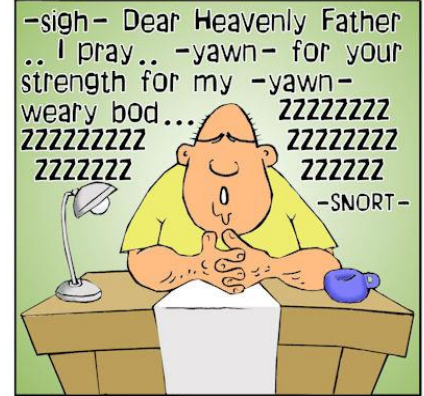
It was inevitable that in Doug's attempt to pray without ceasing after 6 hours and 22 minutes he dozed off and in affect 'ceased'. **1 Thes 5:17**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Compounding Alvin's seasonal allergies was his misunderstanding of the scripture Pray without ceasing. **1 Thes 5:17**

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Pray without ceasing.. not pray without sleeping. **1 Thes 5:17**



Thanks to my new friends at Bibleplaces.com we have this 1st or 2nd century Thessalonian forum perhaps the Very forum mentioned in Acts 17:6 where Paul was tried.

