

For we know brothers loved by God that He has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.

Section 1: Read I Thessalonians 1:1 and Acts 17:1-13.

1. a. From whom was this letter written?

b. What do we know from scripture about each of these men?
Paul (Acts 9:1-22; 13:9; Philippians 3:4-6)

Silas (Acts 15:22, 32-40; 16:22-37)

Timothy (Acts 16:1-3; I Timothy 1:1)
2. a. To whom was this letter addressed?

b. After reading Acts 17, how would you describe the atmosphere in which Paul and Silas found themselves and the people of Thessalonica?
3. a. According to Acts 17:2, where did Paul first go in Thessalonica to teach about Christ?

b. Thought question: Why was this a good place for Paul to start?
4. a. According to Acts 17:5, why were the Jews causing trouble for Paul & Silas?

b. At times when you have struggled with jealousy, what have you done to overcome it? (Share scriptures.)

Section 2: Read I Thessalonians 1:2-5.

5. a. What qualities/characteristics of the Thessalonians were remembered by the authors when they prayed?
_____ produced by _____.
_____ prompted by _____.
_____ inspired by _____ in our Lord Jesus Christ.
- b. Describe in your own words how faith, hope, and love are interrelated and at work in your life today (I Corinthians 13:13).

6. a. In verse 4, how did Paul refer to those whom he was writing?
 - b. What significance was there in being chosen, especially for the Gentiles (Ephesians 2:11-19; I Peter 2:9-10)?
 - c. According to verse 5, how did Paul **know** they were chosen?
 - d. What does God ask of a chosen people (John 15:16-19; I Peter 2:9-12)?
7. a. According to verse 5, why were Paul and Silas so conscious of the way they lived among them?
 - b. Who is watching your example and what are you doing for their sake?
8. a. True or False: Paul and Silas were able to spend a great deal of time in Thessalonica teaching the new converts (Acts 17:1-9). Explain your answer.
 - b. Thought question: What impact do you think losing a mentor has on a new body of believers or ministry, and how can that loss be overcome?

Section 3: Read I Thessalonians 1:6.

9. a. Who did the Thessalonians imitate?
 - b. We are instructed to imitate whom and why (I Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1; Hebrews 6:12)?
 - c. Who does the world imitate, and what are some practical ways we can avoid following the world's example?
10. a. How did Paul say the Thessalonians were a model to all?
 - b. How can we, like the Thessalonians, accept the message with joy even though we may suffer because of it?
 Matthew 5:11-12 _____
 Romans 5:3-5 _____
 Romans 15:13 _____
 I Thessalonians 1:6 _____
 James 1:2-4 _____
 I Peter 1:5-7 _____

11. List some other examples from scripture or in your life when Christians were enabled to be joyous in suffering.

Section 4: Read I Thessalonians 1:7-9.

12. How far-reaching was the influence of the Thessalonians?

13. Name some of the ways the Thessalonians influenced so many.

Vs 8 _____

Vs 9a _____

Vs 9b _____

14. Yes or No: Is your faith in God evident in your circle of influence? What are some ways you could show your faith to others?

15. a. What kind of reception do we give our fellow Christians and how could this influence their faith?

b. Share a faith-building story about a reception you have received or of which you have been a part.

16. According to verse 9, the Thessalonians turned from idols to serve God. What idols do we turn from today as we serve God?

Section 5: Read I Thessalonians 1:10.

17. a. What was the final way, mentioned in verse 10, that the Thessalonians influenced others?

b. How can this influence those around us today?

18. a. In verse 10, Paul referred to Jesus' coming and the coming wrath. How has God's wrath been described in scripture (Isaiah 13:13; Revelation 19:15)?

b. Who will rescue **you** from God's wrath?

c. How does He rescue you (Romans 5:6-10; 6:4; I Thessalonians 5:9-10)?