

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

1 Thessalonians

YOU—BLAMELESS
AT HIS COMING

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
1 THESSALONIANS
YOU—BLAMELESS AT HIS COMING

ISBN 978-1-62119-810-9

© 2019 Precept Ministries International. All rights reserved.

This material is published by and is the sole property of Precept Ministries International of Chattanooga, Tennessee. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Precept, Precept Ministries International, Precept Ministries International The Inductive Bible Study People, the Plumb Bob design, Precept Upon Precept, In & Out, Sweeter than Chocolate!, Cookies on the Lower Shelf, Precepts For Life, Precepts From God's Word and Transform Student Ministries are trademarks of Precept Ministries International.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, ©1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.lockman.org

1st edition
Printed in the United States of America

PAGE	LESSONS
1	LESSON ONE: Overview
17	LESSON TWO: I Thessalonians 1
29	LESSON THREE: I Thessalonians 2
41	LESSON FOUR: I Thessalonians 3
53	LESSON FIVE: I Thessalonians 4
63	LESSON SIX: I Thessalonians 5
73	LESSON SEVEN: I Thessalonians 5
	A P P E N D I X
86	Explanations of the New American Standard Bible Text Format
87	Observation Worksheets
97	I Thessalonians at a Glance
99	Map
101	How to Do a Chapter Study

HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

Commentaries on I Thessalonians

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

MARTIN, D. MICHAEL

The New American Commentary: Volume 33, I, 2 Thessalonians

Nashville, Tennessee: B & H Publishing Group, 1995

MORRIS, LEON

Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: Volume 13, I & 2 Thessalonians

Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.

THOMAS, ROBERT L.; EARLE, RALPH; HIEBERT, D. EDMOND

Expositor's Bible Commentary: I, 2 Thessalonians; I, 2 Timothy; Titus

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996

WALVOORD, JOHN F.; ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures—New Testament

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.

LESSON ONE

Overview

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of 1 Thessalonians
“1 Thessalonians at a Glance”
Map
Cross-references

“Go . . . and make disciples . . .” (Matthew 28:19). That is our Lord’s command. None who know and love God can avoid it!

Here is a book that will give the “how” to those who would obey. First Thessalonians: evangelism and discipleship in action! This is just the book for you, Beloved, because you care enough to learn!

DAY ONE

The Precept™ Bible Study Method begins with the Bible itself. It is finding out what the Bible says. In this method, it’s helpful to survey letters as a whole before dissecting them. In the dissection, you will see how the parts relate to the whole.

In this week’s lesson you will overview 1 Thessalonians to get an overall picture of the whole book. If you will do each section of your homework this week in a thorough manner, you will begin to see the framework of 1 Thessalonians. Every part of the method used this week will reveal the message of the book to one depth or another.

1. The Word of God is different from other books. It is recorded for us by men God inspired to write the truths of His choosing. Thus, the truths of the Bible can be understood only through revelation, taught by the Spirit.

So as you begin each day’s study, ask God, by His Spirit, to open your eyes so that you might behold wonderful things from His Word.

2. If you have never done a Precept Upon Precept® course before, read the section “Getting the Big Picture” in *How to Study Your Bible*.

3. In the Appendix you will find the book of 1 Thessalonians, double-spaced. Read 1 Thessalonians using these Observation Worksheets and mark references to the author. Color the author(s) and pronouns for the author(s).
4. Record what you learn about the author on the page “Author” at the end of the lesson. Do not include what the author tells the recipients to do. Also, note the chapter and verse where you saw the information.
5. What do you admire in these three men that you can incorporate into your life?

If you are a first-timer, welcome. We are thrilled to have you—you are an answer to prayer. We are asking God for “disciples” who are serious about their relationship to Jesus Christ. This is going to be a life-changing experience.

DAY TWO

Today we’ll continue our Overview of 1 Thessalonians by moving from the author to the recipients. Pray before you begin, asking God to teach you by His Spirit as you study His Word.

1. Read 1 Thessalonians again and this time mark references to the recipients, including the pronouns *you* and *your*.
2. At the end of the lesson you’ll find the page “Recipients.” List what you learn about them. Again, do not include what the author tells them to do.
3. Keeping in mind what you learned about the author and the recipients, what did you notice about the time in which they were living? For example, what was happening to believers? Record any insights below.

4. What did you observe about the Church in Thessalonica that you would like to incorporate into your life?

DAY
THREE

1. By this time, you may have observed some words and phrases repeated throughout the book. These are called “key words.” Making a **Key Word Bookmark** will be beneficial.

Cut out the Key Word Bookmark on the back cover of your workbook. On one side of your bookmark, you’ll see marking suggestions for some words often used in the Bible. An asterisk [*] shows these in this workbook.

On the blank side of the bookmark, list the key words below and how you will mark them.

- a. Read 1 Thessalonians again and mark in a distinctive way, color, or combination:
 - 1) *gospel, * word of the Lord*
 - 2) *tribulation, suffer, afflictions**
 - 3) *references to the Lord’s coming**
- b. Also mark geographical locations.*
2. Look at each place you marked references to the Lord’s coming and list what you learn on the page at the end of this lesson. “The Coming of the Lord.”
3. How do you view the Lord’s coming? How are you encouraging fellow believers to be ready?

“Behold, I am coming. . . . The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost” (Revelation 22:12a, 17).

DAY
FOUR

1. Are you ready to begin another day in 1 Thessalonians? If you have not prayed, take a few moments to do so now. Ask the Lord for wisdom and understanding as you study. Colossians 1:9-12 is wonderful to pray for yourself, your Precept leader, and the others in your discussion group.
2. Read 1 Thessalonians a chapter at a time, looking at the words you’ve marked, and answer the following questions:
 - a. Chapter 1—Who and what is this chapter mainly about?
 - b. Chapter 2—Who and what is this chapter mainly about?
 - c. Chapter 3—What did Paul do and why?
 - d. How are chapters 4 and 5 different from chapters 1–3?
3. Find the chart “1 Thessalonians at a Glance” in the Appendix. Let’s begin filling it in. You might use a pencil in case you want to change something later.
 - a. Fill in the “Author,” as well as the “Key Words” you’ve marked.
 - b. Record under “Historical Setting” what you learned about the setting or circumstances surrounding this letter.

- c. Review your answers under number 2. At this point, do you have a general idea why Paul wrote this letter? Record it under “Purpose.”
- d. Considering why Paul wrote and what he wrote about, summarize a theme for the book using a few words from the text. Review your list on the Lord’s coming. What was Paul’s desire for the Thessalonians? Record the theme beside “Book Theme” on the **At a Glance** chart.
- e. A segment is a group of chapters with a common theme or event. Segment divisions can help you see the framework of the book. In the Segment Divisions column, record what you’ve observed in 1 Thessalonians. Draw a horizontal line between the segments and label each segment.
- f. That’s all for now, but we’ll continue to complete this chart as we study 1 Thessalonians.

DAY
FIVE

1. Today we’ll discover more about the historical setting of 1 Thessalonians. Read the following questions; then search for answers in chapters 1 and 2.
 - a. How did the Thessalonians hear the gospel?
 - b. What were the circumstances surrounding their conversion?
 - c. Where was Paul before he went to Thessalonica? What happened to him there?
 - d. What happened to the Thessalonians when they received the gospel?

- e. As you've observed, several locations are referred to in 1 Thessalonians: Macedonia, Achaia, Philippi, and Athens. Find these places on the map in the Appendix and note the location of each one in relationship to the others. Also find Thessalonica. This will help you become familiar with geography in the days when the gospel was beginning to spread.
2. Acts 16:9-24, 40; 17:1-16; 18:1 gives us additional insight into how the gospel was brought to Thessalonica. As you read this portion of Scripture, follow Paul's travels on the map in the Appendix. Silvanus is referred to as Silas in Acts. We've left space for those who want to make a few notes. (If you have time, read Acts 16:9-40.)
3. Study the chart, "Sequence of Events in Paul's Life After His Conversion" found at the end of this lesson. Then answer the following:
 - a. When did Paul take the gospel to the Thessalonians? (Remember, Acts 17 tells about Paul's initial trip to Thessalonica. Compare this with the left column on the chart.)
 - b. When did Paul write 1 Thessalonians?
 - 1) According to the chart, which missionary journey was he on?
 - 2) Now check the introduction to 1 Thessalonians in the *New Inductive Study Bible* or the introductory section in a commentary on 1 Thessalonians. Record the date on your At a Glance chart under "Date."

- c. What do you notice about the timing of Paul's first follow-up letter relative to when he was there?

- d. And what happened in between his visit and his first letter, according to 1 Thessalonians 3?

Isn't it great to put the text into its historical context? These were real times, real people, real circumstances—just like today.

- 4. Think about what you observed as you overviewed 1 Thessalonians. What have you learned for your life? Was there anything you'd like to imitate? A command you need to remember? Something that encouraged you? Take a minute and jot your thoughts below.

- 5. Spend the remainder of your study time reading the introductory remarks in your commentaries on 1 Thessalonians and take pertinent notes. Please do not read beyond the historical setting.

You're off to a good start, Beloved. In these next six weeks, you'll gain a good understanding of 1 Thessalonians if you patiently move through the text with us precept upon precept.

AUTHOR

RECIPIENTS

THE COMING OF THE LORD

1 Thessalonians

Lesson 1, Sequence of Events in Paul's Life after His Conversion

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN PAUL'S LIFE AFTER HIS CONVERSION*

* There are differing opinions on these dates. For consistency this chart will be the basis for dates pertaining to Paul's life.

Scripture	Year A.D.	Event
Acts 9:1-25	33-34	Conversion, time in Damascus
	35-47	Some silent years, except we know that Paul:
Galatians 1:17		1. Spent time in Arabia and Damascus
Acts 9:26; Galatians 1:18		2. Made first visit to Jerusalem
Acts 9:30-11:26; Galatians 1:21		3. Went to Tarsus, Syria-Cilicia area
Acts 11:26		4. Was with Barnabas in Antioch
Acts 11:27-30		5. With Barnabas took relief to brethren in Judea; Paul's second visit to Jerusalem
Acts 12:23	44	Herod Agrippa I dies
Acts 12:25-13:3		6. Returned to Antioch; was sent out with Barnabas by church at Antioch
Acts 13:4-14:26	47-48	First missionary journey: <i>Galatians</i> written (?) Proconsul Sergius Paulus at Paphos
Acts 15:1-35	49	Apostolic Council at Jerusalem—Paul visits Jerusalem <i>Galatians</i> written (?)
Acts 15:36-18:22	49-51	Second missionary journey: <i>1 and 2 Thessalonians</i> written— 1½ years in Corinth, Acts 18:11
	51-52	Gallio known to be proconsul in Corinth
Acts 18:23-21:17	52-56	Third missionary journey: <i>1 and 2 Corinthians and Romans</i> written— 1 Cor. from Ephesus, 2 Cor. from Macedonia, Romans from Corinth
Acts 21:17-23:35	56	Paul goes to Jerusalem and is arrested; held in Caesarea
Acts 24-26	57-59	Appearance before Felix and Drusilla; before Festus—appeals to Caesar; before Agrippa
Acts 27-28:15	59-60	Paul goes from Caesarea to Rome
Acts 28:16-31	60-62	First Roman imprisonment: <i>Ephesians, Philemon, Colossians, and Philippians</i> written—2 years in prison
	62	Paul's release; possible trip to Spain
	62	Paul in Macedonia: <i>1 Timothy</i> written
	62	Paul goes to Crete <i>Titus</i> written
	63-64	Paul taken to Rome and imprisoned: <i>2 Timothy</i> written
	64	Paul is absent from the body and present with the Lord (Others put Paul's conversion about A.D. 35, his death at A.D. 68.)

14 years, Galatians 2:1

3 years

1 THESSALONIANS 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

PAUL and Silvanus and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

- 2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention *of you* in our prayers;
- 3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,
- 4 knowing, brethren beloved by God, *His* choice of you;
- 5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.
- 6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,
- 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
- 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.
- 9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,
- 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 THESSALONIANS 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

FOR you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain,

2 but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.

3 For our exhortation does not *come* from error or impurity or by way of deceit;

4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.

5 For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness—

6 nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.

7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children.

8 Having so fond an affection 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 very dear to us.

9 For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, *how* working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

- 10 You are witnesses, and *so is* God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers;
- 11 just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children,
- 12 so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.
- 13** For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it* not *as* the word of men, but *for* what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.
- 14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,
- 15 who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men,
- 16 hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.
- 17** But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while—in person, not in spirit—were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.
- 18 For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and *yet* Satan hindered us.
- 19 For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?
- 20 For you are our glory and joy.

1 THESSALONIANS 3

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- THEREFORE when we could endure *it* no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone,
- 2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,
- 3 so that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this.
- 4 For indeed when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.
- 5 For this reason, when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.
- 6 But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you,
- 7 for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith;
- 8 for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord.
- 9 For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account,
- 10 as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

- 11 Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you;
- 12 and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you;
- 13 so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

1 THESSALONIANS 4

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- FINALLY** then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.
- 2 For you know what commandments we gave you by *the authority of the* Lord Jesus.
- 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality;
- 4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,
- 5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;
- 6 *and* that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is *the* avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned *you*.
- 7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.
- 8 So, he who rejects *this* is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.
- 9 Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;
- 10 for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,

- 11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you,
- 12 so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.
- 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.
- 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.
- 15 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 not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.
- 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 THESSALONIANS 5

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

NOW as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

- 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.
- 3 While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.
- 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;
- 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;
- 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.
- 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.
- 8 But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.
- 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.
- 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

- 12** But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,
- 13** and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.
- 14** We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.
- 15** See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.
- 16** Rejoice always;
- 17** pray without ceasing;
- 18** in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- 19** Do not quench the Spirit;
- 20** do not despise prophetic utterances.
- 21** But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good;
- 22** abstain from every form of evil.
- 23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 24** Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.
- 25** Brethren, pray for us.
- 26** Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.
- 27** I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.
- 28** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

1 THESSALONIANS AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

	Chapter Themes	Segment Divisions
Author:	1	
Recipients:		
Date:	2	
Purpose:		
Historical Setting:	3	
	4	
Key Words:		
	5	

1 Thessalonians
Map



