

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

welcome to thessalonica

It was named after Thessalonica, the wife of Cassander, who built the city. she was so called by her father, Philip, because he first heard of her birth on the day of his gaining a victory over the Thessalians. On his second missionary journey, Paul preached in the synagogue here, the chief synagogue of the Jews in that part of Macedonia, and laid the foundations of a church (Acts 17:1-4 ; 1 Thessalonians 1:9). the violence of the Jews drove him from the city, when he fled to Berea (Acts 17:5-10).

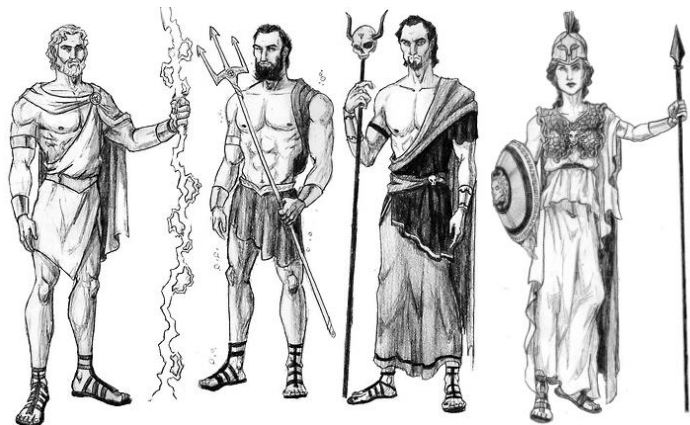


the Thessalonian church was a strong and flourishing one, composed of gentiles rather than of jews, if we may judge from the tone of the two epistles addressed to its members, the absence of quotations from and allusions to the old testament, and the phrase "ye turned unto God from idols" (1 Thessalonians 1:9; compare also 2:14). these, by common consent the earliest of Paul's epistles, show us that the apostle was eager to revisit Thessalonica very soon after his enforced departure:

imagine a picturesque view of mt olympus from the shores of Thessalonica, a large port city on the aegean sea in modern day Greece, population (200,000) the city was filled with pagan worshippers of idols and devotees of the full pantheon of Greek and roman gods, as was well known for its "emperor worship"

Thessalonica was loyal to Caesar, and he had granted its citizens many privileges.

about 50AD Paul and his traveling companions left Philippi and traveled westward on the roman road known as Via Egnatia and proceeded toward the strategic capital city of the roman providence of Macedonia ~ Thessalonica



inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

acts 17...preaching in thessalonica

acts 17:1-2 now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: (2) and Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

what was Paul's pattern?	
how did he reason with them?	
what were the reactions of some people there?	
how many believed?	
who were the majority of believers?	
what were the reactions of Unbelieving Jews?	

acts 17:5-9 but the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. (6) and when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, these that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; (7) whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus. (8) and they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things. (9) and when they had taken security of Jason, and of the other, they let them go.

why Jason?	
what was the complaint to the rulers of the city?	
why would they have been guilty for following Jesus?	
how long did it take to establish this church	

acts 17:10-15 and the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. (11) these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (12) therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few. (13) but when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people. (14) and then immediately the brethren sent away Paul to go as it were to the sea: but Silas and Timotheus abode there still. (15) and they that conducted Paul brought him unto Athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed.

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

a church worth imitating

we discussed last week how quickly the church was established and its problems of persecution arose very quickly by the Jews, yet this church was able to flourish and grow, with Paul only being able to stay a short while before driven out, this church was not fully instructed as others.

even though not present in their physical lives we can see the support they had from others prayers, **1Th 1:2-4** we give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; (3) remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; (4) knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

a testimony that we need to pray for one another, and letting others know that we are, it helps ease the concept that were not alone,

a very young church starting with much affliction was drawn to love another, and it provoked them to work well with another, (they were not the enemy) their faith, labor of love, patience and hope in Christ Jesus kept them striving.

verse 5 talks about how they came not only in word, but in power, and in the Holy Ghost, what does that mean to you? we have no scripture showing any miracles performed by Paul in his initial visit, but we have this verse stating there was more than the word. also note Paul had much assurance in these brethren as he wrote to them, apparently they had behaved/responded to the gospel in a way where Paul understood their love for the Lord. Paul closes this thought with "ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake". thoughts on this?

referring back to the thought of much affliction... **1Th 1:6** and ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: **1Th 3:4** For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. chances are this affliction means there were some of them who were put to death, bravely, as you remember the tumult that was there when they first received the word, the Jews world was turned upside down. this is their level of faith. we will talk more about their joy when we see they understood where joy was in death.

1Th 1:7-10 so that ye were ensamples to all that believe in macedonia and achaia. (8) For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in macedonia and achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. (9) for they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;

this young church was praised for their examples in faith, love, tribulation, patience, and turning from their idols (repentance)

(10) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

Paul closes all 5 chapters in this book with reference of Jesus' coming.

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

Chapter 1

Small Groups Study

1Th 1:1-4 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2) we give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; (3) remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; (4) knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.

what do you feel was the initial purpose of this letter?	
why did they continue to keep them in prayers?	
what was going on in their lives at this time?	
what were some of their fruits that were noticed?	
who noticed them?	
what does verse 4 mean?	

1Th 1:5-6 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. (6) and ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

talk about the gospel being delivered in other ways....in power, ect..	
where did the assurance come from?	
how did Paul and the others conduct themselves at Thessalonica?	
how does joy come with much affliction?	

1Th 1:7-10 so that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. (8) for from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. (9) for they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; (10) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

what kind of examples were they to those that heard of their works?	
did other churches have good/bad examples that were heard abroad?	
what sin was repented and called out in this text?	
v10 mentions the return of Christ, what impact did that have on them?	

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

paul's conduct among them

chapter 2 starts out with Paul reminding them of his conduct before them.

1Th 2:1-2 for yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: (2) but even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

why was Paul compelled to tell them these things?	
do you remember what persecution Paul & Silas suffered in Philippi?	

1Th 2:3-12 for our exhortation *was* not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: (4) but as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. (5) for neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God *is* witness: (6) nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. (7) but we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: (8) so being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. (9) for ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. (10) ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: (11) as ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children, (12) that ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

let's list the thigs Paul mentioned (both good and bad)

list of things Paul did not do in Thessalonica	list of things Paul did do in Thessalonica

go back to chapter 1:5 this is the conduct Paul was talking about.

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

chapter 2

small groups study

1Th 2:13-20 for this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. (14) for ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

why might it have been a big deal to receive the word of men?	
what happened to other churches when they followed the truth?	

1Th 2:15-16 who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: (16) forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

what was the reason the Jews were so contrary to all men?	
how far did the Jews go in their accusations?	
what was the Jews "reward" for all this persecution?	

1Th 2:17-18 but we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire. (18) wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

why was Paul's love for these brethren so strong?	
how many attempts did Paul make to visit these brethren?	
whats another term for Satan? who hindered them?	

1Th 2:19-20 for what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? (20) for ye are our glory and joy.

what type of crown were the Thessalonians used to seeing? HISTORY?	
do you think these brethren stirred up Paul?	
what did he call them? why?	

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

timothy's report

Paul's successful ministry in Thessalonica stirred jealousy among the unbelieving Jews who provoked a riot against him and his companions after about a month of ministry, they were forced to leave, fleeing south to Berea. when Paul's jewish opponents pursued him there he went on to Athens. **Acts 17:5 - 15**

along the way, Paul was deeply concerned about his new spiritual children at Thessalonica. could such young believers hold up under severe persecution? anxious, Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to see how the church was doing and to encourage them under their persecution.

Acts 17:15 and they that conducted Paul brought him unto athens: and receiving a commandment unto Silas and Timotheus for to come to him with all speed, they departed.

1Th 3:2 and sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

1Th 3:6 but now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:

Timothy's return with the news of their steadfastness and devotion field Paul with unbounded joy.

i want to take some time to consider what the huge lesson is behind this transaction that is taking place with the church when Thessalonica when it was started, now we can see that Paul has been persecuted from Thessalonica to Berea and then yet in Berea he was persecuted again in the left and went to Athens and he did not let the persecution shut him down. he kept on teaching

lets read **acts 17:14-34**

in Paul's teaching how did they first respond?	
what did they want to hear?	
what example did he use to start teaching them?	
when he was done teaching, what two things were accomplished?	

all these things going on in Paul's life, his own persecutions, and he has this tremendous care for who? _____

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating

Fall 2017

chapter 3

small groups study

stand fast in the Lord 1Th 3:7-13 therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith: (8) for now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord. (9) for what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God; (10) night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith? (11) now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. (12) and the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: (13) to the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Paul has indicated to his brethren, his joy in the following	Paul has shown his brethren, his love by his prayers
Timothy had now returned with good news - 3:6	1. note the frequency of his prayers for them - 3:10
a. about their faith and love	a. praying night and day
b. about their good remembrance of Paul	b. praying exceedingly
c. about their great desire to see Paul	2. note the content of his prayers for them - 3:10
2. Paul's reaction to this news - 3:7-9	a. to see their face once again
a. comforted in his own affliction and distress by their faith	b. to perfect what is lacking in their faith
b. made to really live by their steadfastness	
c. rejoicing with thankfulness for their condition before God	

do we experience any joy?

do we offer any prayers?

are we moved at all when we see a brethren restored to the Lord?	prayers of thanks when we hear or see evidence of their faithfulness?
do we have any joy when we see them returned to our midst?	prayers to see them and perfect what is lacking in their faith?
can we say with Paul, "For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord"?	Paul prayed exceedingly, night and day...how often do we pray for those who are weak or experiencing trials?

our reaction to seeing brethren who are weak make an effort reveals much about our level of concern for them

this section ends with a prayer in their behalf - 3:11-13, a common practice of Paul in his epistles(Php 1:9-11; Col 1:9-12) in which Paul expresses his desires regarding his brethren. in considering such prayers, I find it beneficial to remember that Paul wrote by inspiration...

so he is not just expressing his own desires, but those of God's as well! in most cases, these prayers are just applicable to us today as they were for them!

as we examine this prayer more closely, then, consider how elements of "Paul's Prayer For The Thessalonians" might also be God's desire for us today. we first notice that Paul's prayer was that the Father and Jesus might direct his way to them, make them increase and abound, establish their hearts.

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating

Fall 2017

called to holiness

4:1-8 furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. (2) for ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. (3) for this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: (4) that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; (5) not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: (6) that no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. (7) for God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. (8) he therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

im-mo-ral-i-ty noun the state or quality of being immoral; wickedness.

This was very common among the gentiles, there are expectations of them to consider the things they were taught.

what are two of those expectations?	
what would happen if they walked right and pleased God?	
what does sanctification mean?	
how can a man defraud his brother?	
who are we really despising?	

brotherly love

4:9-12 but as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. (10) and indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; (11) and that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; (12) that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

what is it about "brotherly love" that would prompt Paul to first pray for and then to urge the church at Thessalonica to increase in this virtue? as we consider Paul's "exhortation to walk in love" let's first notice the definition of brotherly love, the greek word is transliterated "philadelphia" It is a compound involving two words: "phileo" (love) and "adelphos" (brother) it literally means "the love of brothers" as used in the new testament.

1. "philadelphia" describes the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren (Thayer)
2. Rom 12:10 reveals that it is through brotherly kindness we can have "kind affection" toward one another.



[Brotherly kindness is what provides a true sense of family in our association as members of the Lord's body.]

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

chapter 4

small groups study

4:13-18 but I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. (14) for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. (15) for this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. (16) for the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (17) then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (18) wherefore comfort one another with these words.

the Lord's second coming, here we come to the main topic of the epistle, it's mentioned in every chapter and implies that Paul must have given it particular emphasis in his preaching at Thessalonica. these letters are commonly noted has some of the earliest letters.

Fallen asleep is a scriptural expression for the Christians death it is often found in Christian epitaphs in the catacombs. Jesus taught it, it must be true, only asleep. one day we shall awake. glorious morn! this does not mean to lapse into a state of unconsciousness until the day resurrection.

explain (18) wherefore comfort one another with these words	
what did he not want them to be ignorant of?	
what will happen to those that are alive and remain	

what can alleviate the problem of sorrow? It is knowledge concerning the events of Christ's coming; and so Paul does not want them to be ignorant concerning his coming.

the procedure for Christ's coming (16-17)

The lord will descend from heaven

1. Note what is said about His coming - 1Th 4:16
 - a. It will be with a "shout"
 - b. It will be with the "voice of an archangel"
 - c. It will be with the "trumpet of God"
2. This is not describing some silent rapture!

**THE
KING
IS COMING!**

Are you ready?

the whole church will rise in the joyful welcome to be turning savior, to be with him for ever more, if thrills us through and through to think of it.

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

the day of the Lord

as we come to the final chapter in Paul's first epistle to the Thessalonians, we find him telling how christians can be "preparing For Christ's coming" (1Th 5:1-11). the Lord's coming will be a surprise for many, as the "thief in the night" motif clearly indicates - 1Th 5:2; & 2Pe 3:10. but for those who heed the warnings of scripture, the "day" will not overtake them as a thief - 1Th 5:1-2,4 because they will be ready for His coming, though we don't know when it will be,

5:1-5 but of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. (2) for yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. (3) for when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (4) but ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. (5) ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

the Lord's coming...there is nothing that indicates when he is coming back, only that he will be back, and whenever that is, it will be with unexpected suddenness "signs" will precede the coming, so that patient believers may feel that it is near, while the world usually scoffs at the idea. yet even those who are watching are warned, lest they too, be caught off guard.

why did Paul not need to write to the brethren about the return time	
what proof do we have that Christ will return unexpectedly?	
christianity and evil are compared to what events that happen daily?	

5:6-11 therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (7) for they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. (8) but let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. (9) for God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, (10) who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. (11) wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

what will this "day" mean for us, when the Lord comes "as a thief in the night"? a day of destruction, or a day of delight? it depends upon whether we are prepared for His coming... We are "children of light" and "children of the day" - **1Th 5:5** because we follow Jesus, the "light of the world" - **Jn 8:12; 12:35-36** because we are now in Jesus, and walk in the light - **Ep 5:8; 1Jn 1:5-7** because we cast off works of darkness, and seek to walk properly - **Rom 13:11-14**. we are to be watchful for His coming - **1Th 5:6**. for no one knows the day nor hour **1Th 5:2; Mt 24:36, 42** watchfulness includes prayer **1Pet 4:7**. watchfulness includes repentance, and strengthening what we have **Rev 3:2-3**

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

On the other hand, "sleep" in our text refers to spiritual laxity - **1Th 5:6-7**. we are to be sober **1Th 5:6-8a** the word "sober" means to be temperate or abstinent, especially in regards to wine. it usually used in a more general sense to be sober-minded, watchful, circumspect. note how Jesus relates this to watching for His coming in **Lk 21:34-36** we should certainly take the promise of Jesus' coming seriously, not frivolously

5:12-13 and we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; (13) and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. and be at peace among yourselves.

As "sons of light and sons of the day" **1Th 5:5**, we have a duty to comfort and edify one another **1Th 5:11** this duty is true of all us who are members of the body of Christ **Ep 4:15-16** each member has a part in which he or she does their share. when all are working, the body grows through the edifying of itself in love. yet the Lord has also blessed His body with those who edify the body through their service in certain capacities **Ep 4:11-12** such as evangelists, pastors, teachers. whose purpose is for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

in the text for our study **1Th 5:12-13**, we are told of "**our duty toward those who serve**" us by their function in the church of Christ.

while the context may have special application to our duty toward those who serve as elders, I believe we are not amiss to apply it toward those who serve in other capacities as well. Certainly it is appropriate regarding those who serve us in any role..

who are them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord?	
elders also known as.....1Pet 5:1-2; 1Tim 3:1-7; Tit 1:5-9	
who ministers to the needs of the congregation? - Phi 1:1; 1Ti 3:8-13	
whose ministry is to the Word of God, proclaiming the good news to both sinner and saint? Eph 4:11; 2Tim 4:5,2; 1Tim 4:16	

In every active congregation, there is much labor going on; do we recognize those who often labor quietly for our benefit?

Consider this an opportunity to thank someone you see helping out with the works of the church,

Let each other know we appreciate their labor of love, in all they do.

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

fifteen exhortations so wonderfully written, so characteristic of Paul, thus he closes most of his epistles, however abstract, argumentative, or abstruse, with exhortations to peace, longsuffering, joy, prayer, thankfulness, and all good.

(14) now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly,

comfort the feebleminded,

support the weak,

be patient toward all men.

our responsibilities as "children of light" and "children of the day" continue as we now notice "our duty to those in need" **1Th 5:14-15**. both in the church and out, there are those in need of help from Christians. some may not even be aware of their need, yet our duty remains.

"the unruly Christian is one who does not abide by the teachings"

(15) see that none render evil for evil unto any man;

but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves,

and to all men.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. but all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. therefore He says: "awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."
- **Ep 5:8-14**

(16) rejoice evermore.

(17) Pray without ceasing.

(18) in every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Our duties are not just directed toward others, we have some that address our own spiritual wellbeing...

three such duties are mentioned in our text for this lesson **1Th 5:16-18**.

1) to rejoice always

2) to pray without ceasing

3) to give thanks in everything

note that Paul says these things are " will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you "

Rejoice *always* pray *without ceasing*
in *everything* give thanks

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- *I-thessalonians 5:16-18*

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

before Paul closes his epistle with a final blessing and admonition, he lists another series of exhortations...

taken together, we can categorize these exhortations as "our duty to the truth"

(19) Quench not the Spirit.

(20) Despise not prophesyings.

(21) prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

(22) abstain from all appearance of evil.

"our duty to the truth" does not end with simply believing the truth and rejecting that which is false, we must also "hold fast what is good"

what is our obligation to the truth? what does God expect of us regarding the reception of truth, and that which proves to be error?

how do we know what is truth?	
what do we do when we see truth not being taught?	
what steps do you take to abstain from all appearances of evil?	

(23) and the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (24) faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. (25) brethren, pray for us. (26) greet all the brethren with an holy kiss. (27) i charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren. (28) the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

how deep was his love for these brethren, can you see it in vs 23?	
how reassuring was Paul about God's promise in vs 24?	
what 2 ways did Paul tell them to encourage another vs 25 & 26?	
Why allow other brethren to read this epistle?	

brethren, pray for us

we should pray for one another; and brethren should thus express brotherly love. this great apostle did not think it beneath him to call the Thessalonians brethren, nor to request their prayers. ministers stand in need of their people's prayers; and the more people pray for their ministers the more good ministers may have from God, and the more benefit people may receive by their ministry. - Matthew Henry

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

jumping right into the 2 letter written by Paul to the Thessalonians perhaps a few months after the first letter, we will see he is continuing his teaching/warning on the day of the Lord. how it will be sudden, and we will read next of how it won't happen until the apostasy.

written about 52, by Paul, probably while he was still in Athens.

this chapter emphasizes on the fact that at the Lords coming, it will be a terror for the disobedient.

once again, his salutation to the church, of love from all three them, hoping grace and peace on this church with many tribulations. Expressing their love towards them, and reminds them of God's love for their endurance, faith and patience

1:1-5 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: (2) grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (3) we are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; (4) so that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: (5) which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

I have to separate this because Paul is showing them that God is a just God, he had to tell them this, that sin does not go unpunished, and that they are by no means being persecuted for nothing, here is the warning to the disobedient....

1:6-9 (6) seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; (7) and to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, (8) in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (9) who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

1Th 4:16-17 for the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: (17) then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

matt 25:41	depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire,
mark 9:43	the fire that never shall be quenched:
heb 10:27	fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries
2 pet 3:7	reserved unto fire against the day of judgment,
2 pet 3:10	the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

he shares the above verses with how the Lord will be accompanied with "the angels of his power in flaming fire" rendering vengeance on the disobedient. think about what our role will be on judgment day!

1:10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

how deep does this verse hit us, when it comes to us teaching the lost, are we turning the world upside down, showing people the error of their ways, is our testimony believed today, by our love and compassion we have towards the lost?

Jer 9:23-24	the most important thing in this life!
rom 1:18-21,28	yet many refuse to know Him
2 thes 1:8	on all who "obey not the gospel" of Christ
1 thes 4:17 heb 5:9; 1 pet	note well, the gospel must be obeyed!
rom 10:9,10; acts 2:38	that is because the gospel contains commands to obey, such as the commands to believe, confess, repent, and be baptized

there's a great day coming

in view of these words, "there's a great day coming!"...

for some, it will be a terrific day, one to anticipate **2 Pet 3:12-14**. for many, it will be a terrible day, one to fear **Mt 7:13-14, 21-23**

what will this "great day" bring to us, rest and glory or vengeance and punishment?

the answer lies in how we answer two questions...do we know God? have we obeyed the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ?

if you have not, why not today? if you have, then may this sobering passage encourage you to remain faithful, so that Paul's prayer for the

Thessalonians will be fulfilled in your life as well: "...that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." **2Th 1:11-12**

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

the apostasy

Paul's epistles to the Thessalonians have much to say about the coming of Christ...every chapter in 1st Thessalonians makes some reference to His return. we have seen Paul refer to that great day coming in **2Th 1:7-10**. it appears that misconceptions existed in the church at Thessalonica...at least some were being told that the day of Christ had come. Paul writes to reassure them such was not the case **2Th 1:1-2**. Paul explains that before the Lord returns, two events must take place.. the "falling away" will come first - **2Th 2:3** the "man of sin" will be revealed - **2Th 2:3**

the express purpose of this epistle was to caution Thessalonians that the Lord's coming was not immediately at hand, that it would not be till after the apostasy. What is the apostasy? it is called the "falling away" in which a person the "man of sin" in the temple of God professes himself to be God, and exalts himself against God. a false church headed by an impostor.

the early fathers unanimously looked for a personal antichrist to be manifested after the fall of the roman empire. the protestant reformers, being directly in touch with the awful corruption of the church in the middle ages believe the papacy, an institution headed up in a person, usurping to itself authority that belongs only to Christ and being itself responsible for the prevailing corruption, to have been a manifestation of the man of sin. in our own times after 2,000 years of church history, there is still wide difference of opinion. there are many who think It refers to a period immediately before the Lord's coming.

2:1-4 now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, (2) that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. (3) let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **falling away first**, and that **man of sin be revealed**, the son of perdition; (4) who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Paul warned the Ephesian elders...it would occur after Paul's departure (death?) **acts 20:29a**. it would be affected by forces outside and within the church **acts 20:29b-30**.

Paul warned the evangelist Timothy...in latter times some would depart from the faith **1Tim 4:1-2**. examples of the doctrines taught by the apostates are given **1Tim 4:3**

Peter warned the Christians in asia minor. there will be false teachers - **2Pet 2:1**. many would follow their destructive ways - **2Pet 2:2**

the scriptures are clear that a "falling away" or "apostasy" would occur. did it happen? unfortunately, it did...

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

a falling away did come...it began in the first century.

John described it in his epistle, telling of "antichrists" who had gone out from them - **1John 2:18-19** warning of "false prophets" who were already in the world **1John 4:1-3**. who were teaching false doctrines about the nature of Christ. Jude described it in his epistle....certain men had crept in unnoticed - **Jude 4a**. ungodly men who turn the grace of God into lewdness - **Jude 4b** who were denying the authority of Jesus Christ

the "falling away" of which Paul wrote appears to have come...there has certainly been a general departure from the faith and practice of the NT this apostasy is clear to anyone familiar with the pattern of the NT church. but the danger of "falling away" is an ever present one...it has happened once and again, many times. it happened to those who were once restored, it can happen to us just as easily.

apostasy rarely happens overnight...the path to departure is usually gradual, hardly noticed by those involved, it begins with a mindset, develops through a pattern of speech, it is encouraged by a desire to be like the world, rather than to be as God would have us. to avoid apostasy, make sure our hearts have been restored to the Word of God, then give earnest heed to the Word lest we drift away!

who or what is this "man of sin, the son of perdition" while there may be some question as to the actual identity of the man of sin, there is no doubt what unfortunate souls will be misled by his influence..

those who will follow the man of sin....

those who are perishing will be the ones deceived - 2Th 2: 10-12	those who do not have a love for the truth, that they might be saved
those who do not believe the truth	those who have pleasure in unrighteousness
those who believe the lie will be strong in their delusion 2Th 2:11-12	God Himself will send a strong delusion!

people whose priority is pleasure-seeking rather than truth-seeking will be prime candidates for deception!

again, this chapter finishes off with very strong, heartfelt encouraging words

2:13-17 but we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: (14) whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (15) therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. (16) now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, (17) comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

Paul's love for these brethren is so powerful, he finishes these last few chapters telling them that thoses who obey not or know not God will be punished a death like fire destroys everything in its path, then he say's but not you brethren.. God loves you, we have his hope and grace also.

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating
Fall 2017

pray for us

3:1-2 finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have *free* course, and be glorified, even as *it is* with you: (2) and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith.

Preachers often bear the brunt of resistance and persecution in reaction to the gospel; such men are not super heroes. they need our prayers! certainly if Paul, called by God and commissioned by Christ Himself, felt incomplete and inadequate without the prayers of his brethren, how much more should preachers today! Yet as Paul continues, we see that preachers should also be praying for their brethren..

where there are people there are problems...

3:3-6 but the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. (4) and we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. (5) and the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. (6) now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

God is watching over the church then and now, we should not be fearful, he will keep us from evil, just keep directing our hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. However he does not want us to be idle as things go on in the church, he commands us to deal with them.

as Paul nears the end of his epistle to Thessalonians, he gives them a serious charge...to withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly, and not according to the tradition received from Paul **2Th 3:6,14; 2:15**. the seriousness of the charge seen in that Paul invokes the name of Jesus **2Th 3:6** something he rarely does, another example is found in **1Co 1:10**

did the circumstances at Thessalonica that prompted such a serious charge? some had quit working, and had become busybodies - **2Th 3:11-12** contrary to Paul's own example, and previous commands - 2Th 3:7-10; . 1Th 4:11-12 perhaps excitement about the Lord's coming was the excuse given. this charge to withdraw pertains to the subject of church discipline. how churches are to discipline unruly members, a subject not often discussed, even less often applied yet necessary if we are to remain a faithful church of Jesus Christ!

with Paul's charge to withdraw before us **2Th 3:6-15** this may be a good opportunity to review what else is revealed about the command and purpose of church discipline...

it is clearly evident that "withdrawing" is necessary under certain conditions. what is the purpose of withdrawing in such cases?

it is a form of "tough love"...not to be done out of spite, but in the spirit of brotherly love, as difficult as it may be **2Th 3:15**

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians

thessalonica

...a church worth imitating

Fall 2017

3:6-18 now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. (7) for yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; (8) neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: (9) not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. (10) for even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. (11) for we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies. (12) now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread. (13) but ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. (14) and if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. (15) yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. (16) now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. the Lord be with you all. (17) the salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write. (18) the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. amen.

disorderly conduct	orderly conduct
withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly,	for yourselves know how ye ought to follow us
for we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly	we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you
working not at all	neither did we eat any man's bread for nought
but are busybodies	but wrought with labour and travail night and day
and have no company with him	but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us
that he may be ashamed	count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother

Paul's second epistle to the Thessalonians was designed to encourage, enlighten, and exhort. he offered **encouragement** in the midst of persecutions - **2Th 1:1-12** he offered **enlightenment** about the coming of the Lord - **2Th 2:1-17** he offered **exhortations** to Christian living **2Th 3:1-15**. as was Paul's custom, he concludes with a benediction and prayer in their behalf. compare his conclusion to the first epistle **1Th 5:23-28** while shorter, he ends the second epistle in similar fashion **2Th 3:16-18**

Paul's love for his brethren in Thessalonica was evident. he wanted the Lord Himself to give them peace always in every way. he wanted the grace of the Lord to be with them all, thus He began and closed this epistle with a prayer for grace and peace - **2Th 1:2; 3:16-18** as we have considered how Paul encouraged, enlightened, and exhorted his brethren, i hope that I have done the same through this series of lessons i leave with you with another prayer expressed in our text: "The Lord be with you all."

inver grove church of Christ

a study on 1 & 2 thessalonians