The Epistles to the Thessalonians

Study Outline

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I am sincerely grateful to Chuck Missler  
(Koinonia House -- www.khouse.org)  
for lighting a fire under me regarding God's Word.

The Holy Spirit used his uncompromising, scholarly, and in-depth approach to Bible Study to speak to me in a way that has never happened before.

Within me has now been ingrained a passion to know and understand the Bible, to deeply respect and honor it for what it is, and to treat it very seriously because it is indeed the very Words of God.
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These notes were written for use in our Home Bible Study. They were developed to encourage a regular verse-by-verse study of the Bible: this is the best way to immerse ourselves in God's Word. It needs to be read and studied "c-2-c", that is, "cover-to-cover." We need to involve ourselves with the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27), not just the popular or favorite passages.

In addition, it is essential to document how the Lord speaks and instructs us as we study His Word. We are responsible to know His Word, and make it a part of our everyday life.

These notes are being made available to encourage you to engage in a daily, personal, and serious study of God's Word.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." -- Psalm 119:105

"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." -- Psalm 119:11

"I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; and there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down." -- Proverbs 24:30-31

"Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks." -- Ecclesiastes 10:18
Lesson 1: Introduction + 1 Thessalonians 1

I. Introduction
   A. the first epistle to the Thessalonians is probably Paul's first epistle
      1. some think Galatians was the first
      2. this would be the first book written of the New Testament
      3. maybe written around 51 A.D.
      4. probably written from Corinth
      5. every chapter has something about Jesus' second coming
         a. 1 out of every 13 verses in the New Testament speaks of His return
         b. Jesus' second coming is very important and very significant
         c. we are to expect His return imminently
            (i) it affects how we live our lives
            (ii) it causes us to be sincere, serious, alert, faithful, busy, prepared
            (iii) it's the cure for hypocrisy, covetousness, and worry: Matthew 6:31-34; Luke 12:29-31
   B. Thessalonica
      1. became the virtual capital of all Macedonia
         a. "the foremost city of that part of Macedonia": Acts 16:12
         b. Macedonia was the northern part of Greece
   C. during Paul's second missionary journey Paul and his team entered Europe as a result of the vision of "a man of Macedonia": Acts 16:9-10
      1. Paul's team consisted of at least Silas, Timothy, and Luke
      2. Philippi was their first recorded stop
      3. first European converts were women at a prayer meeting by a river in Philippi: Acts 16:13-15
      4. they were treated rough in Philippi: Acts 16:20-34
         a. unjustly beaten and jailed
         b. Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises in jail
            (i) "the prisoners were (intently) listening to them": Acts 16:25
         c. an earthquake opened the prison doors
         d. the jailer was going to kill himself but became saved instead
   D. Paul and Silas head to Thessalonica: Acts 17:1-10
      1. Thessalonica was about 100 miles beyond Philippi
      2. they were in the synagogue for only 3 Sabbaths (Acts 17:2)
         a. but could have been in and around the city for a longer period of time
      3. taught the gospel from the Old Testament: Acts 17:2-3
         a. "reasoned with them from the Scriptures": Acts 17:2
         b. Jesus was the Christ
         c. His suffering
         d. His death
         e. His resurrection
         f. similar to 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
         g. Do we know the Old Testament well enough such that we could teach an effective gospel message from just the Old Testament?!
      4. the Jews who "refused to believe" formed (hired?) a mob to make a lot of trouble for Paul: Acts 17:5-9
         a. they "took some of the evil men from the marketplace": Acts 17:5
         b. the mob "set all the city in an uproar": Acts 17:5
         c. Paul and his team were accused to have "turned the world upside down": Acts 17:6
            (i) what a wonderful testimony!
            (ii) does the world say that about our witness for Jesus?!
      5. Paul and Silas left by night: Acts 17:10
         a. for their safety?
         b. to keep the peace?
E. these believers were very dear to Paul: 1 Thessalonians 2:8, 17-20
   1. he tried to return a number of times: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18
   2. they were so special to him that Paul considered them as his future reward: 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20
   3. because of Paul's concern for them, he sent Timothy back to them: 1 Thessalonians 3:2; 5:7
F. they were taught all the fundamentals of the Christian faith, including the gospel, Jesus' second coming (the "Rapture" or the "Translation of the Church"), and the Day of the Lord
G. the Thessalonian believers became very good witnesses: 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10
H. Paul's team even picked up some traveling companions from Thessalonica: Acts 20:4

II. the Trinity is clearly seen in the opening verses of this epistle
   A. God the Father: 1 Thessalonians 1:1
   B. Lord Jesus Christ: 1 Thessalonians 1:1
   C. Holy Spirit: 1 Thessalonians 1:5, 6

III. "Paul, Silas, and Timothy": 1 Thessalonians 1:1
   A. Silas (Silvanus)
      1. one of the "leading men among the brethren" in Jerusalem: Acts 15:22
      2. a prophet: Acts 15:32
      3. a Roman citizen: Acts 16:37
      4. apparently he physically wrote Peter's first epistle: 1 Peter 5:12
         a. in a similar way, some believe that Mark's gospel was really Peter's gospel: Mark wrote it down
   B. Timothy
      1. joined Paul's team during his second missionary journey: Acts 16:1-3
         a. "well-spoken of": Acts 16:2
         b. Paul speaks well of him, too: Philippians 2:19-23
         c. Paul circumcised Timothy to make him acceptable to the Jews: Acts 16:3
            (i) Jews had a lot of prejudices
            (ii) they knew his father was a Greek
      2. may be one of Paul's converts from the previous journey
         a. "my own son in the faith"
            (i) 1 Corinthians 4:17
            (ii) 1 Timothy 1:2, 18
            (iii) 2 Timothy 1:2
      3. he was well-instructed in the Scriptures: 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15
      4. he may have witnessed Paul's troubles in Lystra: 2 Timothy 3:10-11
         a. Paul was stoned at Lystra: Acts 14:19
      5. listed in the salutations of 6 of Paul's letters
         a. 2 Corinthians 1:1
         b. Philippians 1:1
         c. Colossians 1:1
         d. 1 Thessalonians 1:1
         e. 2 Thessalonians 1:1
         f. Philemon 1:1
      6. Paul wrote two letters to him: 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy
         a. 2 Timothy was probably Paul's very last epistle before his death
   C. Silas and Timothy were preachers and workers with Paul: 2 Corinthians 1:19
   D. all three are listed together again in the salutation of the second epistle to the Thessalonians:
      2 Thessalonians 1:1

IV. "church": 1 Thessalonians 1:1
   A. "church" = (Greek, "ekklesia") the "called out" or "summoned"
      1. refers to the Christian community, the saints, the congregation, the local body of believers
      2. does not refer to a building
   B. "to" the church, not "from" the church
      1. the church is being taught
         a. the church is not doing the teaching; the church does not set doctrine
         b. the church is taught the true, unchanging, and sound doctrine
V. "in God and the Lord Jesus Christ": 1 Thessalonians 1:1
   A. speaks of union, of being of one body, and in one family
   B. "to the saints in Christ": Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2
   C. "we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.": 1 John 5:20
   D. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.": John 15:4-6
   E. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.": Romans 8:1
   F. "so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another": Romans 12:5
   G. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.": 2 Corinthians 5:17
   H. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.": Galatians 3:28
   I. "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus": Ephesians 2:10
   J. "grace… peace" is in all of the openings of Paul's letters

VI. Thanksgiving: 1 Thessalonians 1:2
   A. Paul was very thankful that the Thessalonians were doing so well
      1. what he is thankful for is illustrated in the rest of the chapter
   B. he was constantly praying for them
      1. "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing…": 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
      2. 1 Thessalonians 2:13
   C. he said similar things about other believers
      1. "I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers": Romans 1:8-9
      2. "I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus": 1 Corinthians 1:4
      3. "I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers": Ephesians 1:15-16
      4. "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy": Philippians 1:3-4
      5. "We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints": Colossians 1:3-4
      6. "I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers, hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints… we have great joy and consolation in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother.": Philemon 1:4-7
   7. Do we get the idea that he had a very busy prayer life?!
   D. Paul emphasizes prayer, especially by his example
      1. "pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.": 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

VII. "faith… love… hope": 1 Thessalonians 1:3
   A. these are fundamental principles of the Christian life
   B. this trio is seen in a number of places throughout the New Testament
      1. 1 Corinthians 13:13
      2. Galatians 5:5-6
      3. Colossians 1:4-5
      4. 1 Thessalonians 5:8
      5. Hebrews 6:10-12; 10:22-24
   C. speaks of the past, present, and the future
   D. "work of faith"
      1. faith looks back and rests on the finished work of Jesus Christ
         a. "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith": Hebrews 12:2
2. faith is manifested or demonstrated by works
   a. "I will show you my faith by my works": James 2:18

E. "labor of love"
   1. love works now, in the present
   2. "…faith working through love": Galatians 5:6
   3. "labor" = fatiguing labor; intense labor united with trouble; weariness

F. "patience of hope"
   1. hope looks to the future
   2. "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ": Titus 2:13

VIII. "election": 1 Thessalonians 1:4
   A. also known as "the chosen"
   B. Paul calls them "brethren" because they're of the same spiritual family as he is
   C. Paul "knew" of their election because of their works
      1. their works demonstrated their true faith in Christ
      2. their faith, love, and hope were evidences
   D. in the Old Testament the "election" was national
      1. Israel was "the elect" or "the chosen people"
      2. they did not make the choice: they were born into it
      3. "For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.": Deuteronomy 7:6-8
   4. Isaiah 65:9
   E. in the New Testament the "election" is individual or personal
      1. refers to the Christians, those who are saved
         (i) does not automatically and exclusively refer to the church
      2. we do make the choice: we need to be "born-again" into it
      3. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit": John 15:16
      4. "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world": Ephesians 1:4
      5. "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved…": Colossians 3:12
      6. "I endure all things for the sake of the elect": 2 Timothy 2:10
      7. "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light": 1 Peter 2:9

IX. the Word plus the Holy Spirit: 1 Thessalonians 1:5
   A. the Word of God and the Holy Spirit must not be separated
      1. "…the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God": Ephesians 6:17
   B. the Holy Spirit is needed to explain and teach us the Scriptures
      1. "You also gave Your good Spirit to instruct them": Nehemiah 9:20
      2. "the Holy Spirit… will teach you all things": John 14:26
      3. "when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth": John 16:13
      4. "the same anointing teaches you concerning all things": 1 John 2:27
      5. "These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches… the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.": 1 Corinthians 2:13-14
      6. we are also given some warnings about offending the Holy Spirit
         a. "do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God": Ephesians 4:30
         b. "Do not quench the Spirit": 1 Thessalonians 5:19
   C. assurance also comes from the Holy Spirit
      1. "The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God": Romans 8:16
X. "much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit": 1 Thessalonians 1:6
   A. the second epistle to the Thessalonians was written as a result of their afflictions
      1. secular history tells us that Rome was beginning to get involved, too
   B. even when Paul was initially there, there was much rejection and opposition: Acts 17:5-9
   C. the Jewish leaders weren't satisfied that Paul and Silas left the city but continued their attacks by following them to Berea: Acts 17:13
   D. Parable of the Sower: Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23; Mark 4:3-8, 14-20; Luke 8:5-8, 11-15
      1. the "rocky soil" speaks of those who become frustrated and fall because of troubles
      2. the Thessalonians were like the "good soil": they grew, endured, and bore fruit
         a. they demonstrated that they had well-rooted, genuine faith
   E. Parable of building on rock vs. sand: Matthew 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49
      1. it doesn't say "if the rain, floods, and winds come"
      2. the Thessalonians were firmly established and were able to withstand the persecution
   F. although the Thessalonians were having a lot of trouble they still had joy of the Holy Spirit
      1. "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.": James 1:2-3
      2. "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.": Romans 8:18
      3. "we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.": Romans 5:3-5
      4. "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.": Romans 14:17

XI. "examples": 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8
   A. the word for "example" comes from a root for a die (as struck), that is, a stamp or scar
      1. the Thessalonians left their mark on other people
      2. they left good impressions for the Lord
      3. being a good example to others is proof of a healthy Christian life
         a. "You are the light of the world… Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.": Matthew 5:14-16
         b. we're not to be "undercover Christians"; we're not to keep it a secret
   B. "to all in Macedonia and Achaia… also in every place"
      1. meaning all of Greece and beyond
      2. Macedonia was northern Greece; Achaia was southern Greece
   C. their faith was famous
      1. just like the believers in Rome, "your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world": Romans 1:8

XII. "turned to God… from idols… to serve… to wait": 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
   A. just turning from idols wasn't enough
      1. they'd just be turning to another form of bondage
      2. they had to turn to the true, genuine, and real God instead of to something false
      3. we become like the gods we worship: Psalms 115:8; 135:18
   B. the word for "serve" is related to "doulos", a willing servant
      1. denotes willing service
   C. waiting for Jesus to return
      1. Christians want Jesus to return
      2. non-Christians only have wrath to face
   D. Jesus' resurrection is mentioned
      1. emphasizes its importance and its uniqueness to the Christian faith
   E. good demonstration of true Christian conversion
      1. "faith" leads to "turning to God"
      2. "love" leads to "service"
      3. "hope" leads to "waiting for Jesus"
Lesson 2: 1 Thessalonians 2

I. Their Preaching and Conduct Among the Thessalonians: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
   A. he is going to elaborate further on the first half of 1 Thessalonians 1:9
   B. even after being treated so badly in Philippi they continued to be bold in preaching the gospel to them:
      1 Thessalonians 2:2
      1. in Philippi they were beaten and jailed contrary to Roman law: Acts 16:19-24
      2. even with the opposition in Thessalonica they were still bold
      3. "conflict" = "agony" from where we get the word "agony"
         a. they could have still been bleeding or oozing from their beating in Philippi
   C. their preaching to them was always pure: 1 Thessalonians 2:3
      1. true preaching, always from the Word of God: Acts 17:2; 20:27
      2. not adulterated
      3. "For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ." : 2 Corinthians 2:17
         a. "peddling" = to retail; to adulterate, corrupt
      4. "we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord": 2 Corinthians 4:5
      5. not of human wisdom, philosophy, or speculation
         a. "But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.": Galatians 1:11-12
      6. "deceit" = to decoy, trick (bait), wile, craft, guile, subtlety
         a. they didn't try to trick anyone to be saved
         b. "not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth": 2 Corinthians 4:2
   D. "approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel": 1 Thessalonians 2:4
      1. "approved" = to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals; to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy
      2. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." : 2 Timothy 2:15
         a. "rightly dividing" = to cut straight, dissect correctly, expound correctly, accurately handling, to teach the truth directly and correctly
      3. "...the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust. And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry": 1 Timothy 1:11-12
         a. they didn't choose the ministry; they're "God appointed"
      4. it's been said that the most dangerous preaching is that which is only partly true
      5. Can we say that we're always accurate with God's Word?! Can we be trusted with it?! If not, then we have work to do!
   E. "not as pleasing men, but God": 1 Thessalonians 2:4
      1. "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." : Galatians 1:10
         2. they weren't taking credit for anything
   F. "God... tests our hearts": 1 Thessalonians 2:4
      1. 1 Chronicles 29:17
      2. Psalms 7:9; 17:3
      3. Proverbs 17:3
      4. Jeremiah 11:20; 17:10
      5. Acts 1:24
   G. there will be an accounting
      1. the Parable of the talents: Matthew 25:14-30
      2. the Parable of the minas: Luke 19:11-27
      3. the Word is entrusted to us for a return
H. no flattery: 1 Thessalonians 2:5
   1. "they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage": Jude 1:16
   2. "they speak great swelling words of emptiness": 2 Peter 2:18
   3. "…speak to us smooth things…": Isaiah 30:10
I. not a "cloak for covetousness": 1 Thessalonians 2:5
   1. they were not in the ministry for the money
      a. not looking for gain or material things
      b. they weren't looking to cash in on Christianity
      c. it wasn't their livelihood
   2. everything was out in the open
      a. they weren't hiding anything
      b. their preaching wasn't hiding their real motives
   3. "By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words": 2 Peter 2:3
      a. "make merchandise of you" (KJV)
      b. some ministries emphasize material things
         (i) "name it and claim it"
         (ii) "health and wealth"
         (iii) "blab it and grab it"
   4. Isaiah 56:10-12
   5. Jeremiah 6:13; 8:10
   6. Ezekiel 34

J. "God is witness": 1 Thessalonians 2:5
   1. their consciences were very clear
   2. whether we like it or not, God sees and knows everything
   3. Romans 1:9
   4. Romans 9:1
   5. Galatians 1:20

K. they did not seek the glory of man: 1 Thessalonians 2:6
   1. "How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?": John 5:44
   2. "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory, but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him.": John 7:18
   3. "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.": Galatians 1:10
   4. "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them.": Matthew 6:1-4
   5. "when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.": Luke 14:12-14

L. they were not a financial burden on the Thessalonians: 1 Thessalonians 2:6
   1. also seen in 1 Thessalonians 2:9
   2. it would have been valid for Paul to expect or to ask for support from them
      a. 1 Corinthians 9:6-18
   3. Paul chose not to be supported whenever possible
      a. 2 Corinthians 11:9; 12:16
      b. 2 Thessalonians 3:8
      c. 1 Timothy 5:16
      d. no one could ever accuse him of greed, covetousness, etc.

M. the Thessalonians became very dear to Paul: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8
   1. Paul's team was gentle among them: 1 Thessalonians 2:7
      a. "cherish" = to warm, keep warm; to brood; to cherish with tender love, to foster with tender care
         (i) used only here and in Ephesians 5:29, "For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church."
      b. this sort of idiom is seen elsewhere
         (i) Numbers 11:12
         (ii) Isaiah 49:23; 66:13
         (iii) Acts 13:18?
      c. Psalms 91
2. because of love they were willing to do more than just preach the gospel to them: 1 Thessalonians 2:8
   a. they were delighted to give them their lives
   b. "I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.": 2 Corinthians 12:15
   c. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.": John 7:38
   d. "The mouth of the righteous is a well of life": Proverbs 10:11
   e. "The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.": Proverbs 18:4

N. Paul's team supported themselves: 1 Thessalonians 2:9
   1. "night and day" indicates their Hebrew timekeeping
   2. they made sure they weren't a financial burden on them or anyone
      a. silences criticism: 2 Corinthians 11:7-12
      b. Paul refused support from the Corinthians: 1 Corinthians 9:11-12
      c. demonstrates unselfish love for others: 2 Corinthians 12:13-18
      d. earning his own wages in Ephesus allowed him to share with others: Acts 20:34-35
      e. it set a good example: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
         (i) some had a tendency to not work, sit back, and wait for Jesus' second coming (the Rapture)
      f. Paul was supplemented by offerings from Philippi: Philippians 4:15
      g. Paul was a tentmaker: Acts 18:3

3. preaching the gospel of God was the most important thing

O. their behavior confirmed their faith: 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12
   1. our behavior confirms our faith
   2. otherwise it's hypocrisy
   3. the habitual conduct of our personal life due to our salvation
   4. "walk worthy": 1 Thessalonians 2:12
      a. making converts isn't the whole story
         (i) also wants them to be living the right kind of life
      b. our walk proves and demonstrates our salvation
      c. "...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life": Romans 6:4
      d. "...walk worthy of the calling with which you were called": Ephesians 4:1
      e. "walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us": Ephesians 5:2
      f. "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.": Ephesians 5:15-16
      g. "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ": Philippians 1:27
      h. "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.": Colossians 2:6-7
      i. "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.": 1 John 2:6
      j. Colossians 3:1-10
      k. do we hate sin as much as He does?
         (i) it must be genuine; it must come from the heart
         (ii) we must keep our attitudes about sin separate from the sinner
            - hate the sin but love the sinner
   5. "His kingdom": 1 Thessalonians 2:12
      a. God is setting it up, not us

II. The Thessalonians' Conversion: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-16
   A. "thanking God without ceasing": 1 Thessalonians 2:13
      1. repeats what he said in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3
      2. he's thankful that they accepted the Word of God
         a. not that they accepted him
         b. not that they accepted human words
B. “word of God… not the word of men”: 1 Thessalonians 2:13
   1. back then the word of God was the Old Testament Scriptures
      a. “…reasoned with them from the Scriptures…”: Acts 17:2-3
   2. not human traditions
      a. Matthew 15:1-9
      b. Mark 7:1-13
      c. Isaiah 29:13
      d. 2 Kings 17:19
      e. Galatians 1:14
      f. Colossians 2:8, 20-23
      g. Titus 1:14
      h. 1 Peter 1:18
C. “word of God… works in you”: 1 Thessalonians 2:13
   1. the Word of God and the Holy Spirit must not be separated
      a. 1 Thessalonians 1:5
      b. “…the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”: Ephesians 6:17
      c. without the Holy Spirit the Bible is nothing more than just another book
   2. the Word is alive and active
      a. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.": Hebrews 4:12
   3. God's Word is the absolute standard
      a. there is only one truth
      b. there is such thing as absolute truth, and this is it!
      c. "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.": Isaiah 8:20
      d. Jesus said, "the word that I have spoken will judge him": John 12:48
         (i) everyone will be judged by the Word of God
      e. "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.": Galatians 1:8-9
      f. Acts 17:11
   4. the Word is like fire: Jeremiah 5:14; 23:29
   5. there is a connection between the Word of God and…
      a. faith
         (i) "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God": Romans 10:17
      b. doctrine
         (i) "All Scripture is… profitable for doctrine… for instruction": 2 Timothy 3:16
         (ii) "holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict": Titus 1:9
      c. obedience or lack of sin
         (i) "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.": Psalms 119:11
      d. purity and cleanliness
         (i) "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.": Psalms 119:9
         (ii) John 15:3
         (iii) Ephesians 5:26
      e. understanding
         (i) "The entrance of Your words… gives understanding.": Psalms 119:130
         (ii) "Give me understanding according to Your word.": Psalms 119:169
         (iii) Parable of the Sower
            - the "wayside soil" included a lack of understanding (Matthew 13:19)
            - the "good soil" included understanding (Matthew 13:23)
         (iv) Nehemiah 8:8, 12
f. direction, alertness, and clarity in life
   (i) "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.": Psalms 119:105
   (ii) "The entrance of Your words gives light": Psalms 119:130
   (iii) "The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes": Psalms 19:8
   (iv) "For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life": Proverbs 6:23
   (v) "The path of the just is like a shining light, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble."; Proverbs 4:18-19

   g. feeding, growing, and maturity
   (i) "that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord": Deuteronomy 8:3
   (ii) Jesus said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'": Matthew 4:4
   (iii) "as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby": 1 Peter 2:2
   (iv) "the word... is able to build you up": Acts 20:32

D. "imitators": 1 Thessalonians 2:14
   1. they're being persecuted just like the churches in Judea
   2. in both situations the persecution is coming from their own people
   3. Jesus said, "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you": John 15:18-21
   4. "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution": 2 Timothy 3:12

E. the Jews killed their Messiah and the prophets: 1 Thessalonians 2:15-16
   1. Jesus spoke "woes" to them because they killed the prophets
      a. Matthew 23:29-37
   2. parable of the wicked farmers or husbandmen
      a. Matthew 21:33-44
      b. Mark 12:1-11
   3. Stephen said the same thing about them killing the prophets, and then Jesus
      a. "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers": Acts 7:52
      b. Saul (now the Apostle Paul) was probably hearing what Stephen said
   4. Peter said the same thing about them killing Jesus
   5. "they do not please God": 1 Thessalonians 2:15
      a. what an understatement!
      b. they thought they were doing the Lord's will, doing Him a favor
         (i) "the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service": John 16:2
      c. when he was Saul, the Apostle Paul was also persecuting the church
         (i) "For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."; 1 Corinthians 15:9
         (ii) "I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it": Galatians 1:13
         (iii) "concerning zeal, persecuting the church": Philippians 3:6
         (iv) "I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man": 1 Timothy 1:12-16
   6. "contrary to all men, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles": 1 Thessalonians 2:15b-16a
      a. the Jews were supposed to be preaching to the entire world
         (i) "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in."; Matthew 23:13
         (ii) "Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered."; Luke 11:52
      b. they were obstructing the preaching of the gospel
         (i) they especially hated the Gentiles: Acts 21:22-23
         (ii) the Council that met in Acts 15 was a result of generations of bigotry
7. "fill up the measure of their sins": 1 Thessalonians 2:16
   a. their punishment will be withheld until the right time
   b. sins and iniquities are often pictured as filling up or reaching a measure
      (i) "the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete": Genesis 15:16
      (ii) "…when the transgressors have reached their fullness…": Daniel 8:23
      (iii) "Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt.": Matthew 23:32
   c. wrath is often pictured as being poured out
      (i) 2 Chronicles 12:7; 34:21, 25
      (ii) Job 40:11
      (iii) Psalms 69:24; 79:6
      (iv) Ezekiel 21:31, 22:31
      (v) Hosea 5:10
      (vi) Revelation 16

III. Paul really wanted to visit them again: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18
   A. it was an untimely separation: 1 Thessalonians 2:17
      1. the separation was forced upon them
      2. "taken" = to make orphan, destitute; to bereave of a parent
      3. Paul felt like a parent to them
         a. he used parental idioms in 1 Thessalonians 2:7, 11
         b. they were his children
         c. he cared for them very deeply
   B. Satan was their adversary: 1 Thessalonians 2:18
      1. "hindered" = to cut into, to impede one's course by cutting off the way; to cut a trench between one's
         self and an advancing foe, to prevent his progress
      2. we don't know what Satan was doing to accomplish this
         a. did this have something to do with the pledge that Jason made in Acts 17:9?
         b. continued opposition by the Jews in Thessalonica (Acts 17:13)?
         c. was Paul always extra busy where he was trying to advance the gospel?

IV. They're his reward: 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20
   A. as far as Paul was concerned, they were all the reward he needed
   B. Paul wasn't satisfied with just his own salvation
      1. other people's salvation was just as important
Lesson 3: 1 Thessalonians 3

I. Paul's Extreme Concern for the Thessalonians: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5
A. Timothy is sent to check up on the Thessalonians: 1 Thessalonians 3:1-2
   1. Timothy is sent like this at other times, too
      a. 1 Corinthians 4:17
      b. Philippians 2:19-24
      c. 1 Timothy 1:3
   2. Paul has sent others out to do something like this, too
      a. "Tychicus… that he may encourage your hearts.": Ephesians 6:21-22
      b. "Tychicus… that he may encourage your hearts.": Colossians 4:7-9
         (i) Onesimus went along, too
   3. Paul was very concerned as to what the Jewish leaders might be doing to the believers left in Thessalonica
      a. the Jewish leaders caused a lot of trouble for Paul and Silas when they were in Thessalonica:
         Acts 17:5-6
      b. when Paul and Silas left and went to Berea the Jewish leaders even sent troublemakers after them:
         Acts 17:13
   4. Paul sounds very concerned
      a. there is a lot of repetition about his concern for them
         (i) "when we could no longer endure it…": 1 Thessalonians 3:1
         (ii) "when I could no longer endure it…": 1 Thessalonians 3:5
      b. he had "deep concern for all the churches": 2 Corinthians 11:28
B. Timothy is sent to establish and encourage them: 1 Thessalonians 3:2
   1. "establish" = to turn resolutely in a certain direction; to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix; to strengthen, make firm; to render constant, confirm one's mind
      a. he is going to repeat this a number of times to them
         (i) "…to establish your hearts blameless in holiness before God": 1 Thessalonians 3:13
         (ii) "the Lord is faithful, who shall establish you": 2 Thessalonians 3:3
      b. "Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.": James 5:8
      c. "So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily."; Acts 16:5
      d. "Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established": Hebrews 13:9
         (i) "established" = stabilized; have a good footing
   2. "encourage" = to call to one's side, call for, summon; to encourage, strengthen; to console, to encourage and strengthen by consolation, to comfort
      a. he is going to repeat this a number of times to them
         (i) "So then, encourage one another with these words.": 1 Thessalonians 4:18
         (ii) "So then, encourage one another and build each other up, as you are doing.":
             1 Thessalonians 5:11
         (iii) "May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father… encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good work and word.": 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
      b. "Let us continue to hold firmly to the hope that we confess without wavering, for the one who made the promise is faithful. And let us continue to consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another even more as you see the day coming nearer.": Hebrews 10:23-25
   3. "your faith"
      a. this phrase is seen in verses 2, 5, 6, 7, 10
      b. he wasn't concerned with their "health and wealth"
      c. the most important thing was the stability of their faith
      d. "exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith": Jude 1:3
C. "afflictions… we are appointed to this": 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4
   1. he's mentioned their persecutions before: 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:14
   2. Timothy was sent to strengthen them so that they would not be shaken by their afflictions
   3. Paul told them to expect persecutions and afflictions
   4. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake…": Matthew 5:10-12
   5. "…rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings": 1 Peter 4:12-14
   6. "…affliction works out patience…": Romans 5:3-4
D. Paul was very anxious about the status of their faith: 1 Thessalonians 3:5
   1. lest they've failed or fallen away
      a. like those represented by the "rocky soil" in the Parable of the Sower
         (i) Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21
         (ii) Mark 4:5-6, 16-17
         (iii) Luke 8:6, 13
      b. like those who build on the sand in the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders
         (i) Matthew 7:24-27
         (ii) Luke 6:47-49
   2. he was concerned that Satan might have tempted them to fail
      a. "However, I am afraid that just as the serpent deceived Eve by its tricks, so your minds may somehow be lured away from sincere and pure devotion to Christ": 2 Corinthians 11:3
      b. "deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ": 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
      c. "there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ": Galatians 1:6-9
      d. "we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting": Ephesians 4:14
      e. "each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed": James 1:13-14
      f. "if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe": 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

II. The Result of Timothy's Visit: 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10
   A. Timothy came back with great news!
   B. they both longed to see each other again: 1 Thessalonians 3:6
   C. the good news encouraged Paul and his team: 1 Thessalonians 3:7
      1. their faith and their stability was encouraging and comforting to them during their own afflictions
      2. our faith and our stability should be encouraging and comforting to others
      3. our lives affect others in ways that we may never know
   D. their faith was their strength to live: 1 Thessalonians 3:8
      1. idiomatically speaking, the Thessalonians continuing in the faith allowed them to live
      2. they were his joy and "crown of rejoicing": 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20
         a. that's the fruit of their ministry
      3. mere conversion wasn't enough
         a. he wanted to see changed lives
            (i) "walk worthy": 1 Thessalonians 2:12
            (ii) not "life after death", but "life after birth"
         b. we are to be on the right course, stable, and well-grounded ("established") in our faith
         c. we are called to bear fruit
            (i) John 15:1-17
               - "My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit": John 15:8
               - "I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit": John 15:16
            (ii) the "good soil" in the Parable of the Sower: Matthew 13:23; Mark 4:20; Luke 8:15
               (iii) "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.": Proverbs 11:30
         d. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.": Titus 2:11-14

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4. "stand fast"
   a. "Therefore, my brothers, stand fast and hold the teachings which you have been taught, whether by word or by our letter.": 2 Thessalonians 2:15
   b. "Watch! Stand fast in the faith! Be men! Be strong!": 1 Corinthians 16:13
   c. "stand fast in one spirit, striving together with one mind for the faith of the gospel": Philippians 1:27
   d. "Therefore, my brothers, ones loved and longed for, my joy and crown, stand fast in this way in the Lord, beloved ones.": Philippians 4:1
   e. "So that, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not without fruit in the Lord.": 1 Corinthians 15:58

E. "praying exceedingly": 1 Thessalonians 3:9-10
   1. they can't thank God enough for them: 1 Thessalonians 3:9
   2. constantly thanking God for them as in 1 Thessalonians 2:13, "we also thank God without ceasing"
   3. they constantly prayed for them and about them
   4. they were very joyful about them
   5. praying for the spiritual welfare of others is certainly most important
   6. "perfect" = to complete thoroughly; to adjust; to mend or repair
     a. does not mean sinless perfection
   7. "pray without ceasing": 1 Thessalonians 5:17

III. Paul's Prayer: 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
   A. links God the Father with the Lord Jesus Christ: 1 Thessalonians 3:11
   B. does not pray to the Holy Spirit!
     1. it's demonstrated to us that we're not to pray to the Holy Spirit
        a. Paul's prayers
           (i) Romans 1:8-9; 8:15
           (ii) Colossians 1:3
           (iii) 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
           (iv) 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; 3:5
        b. David's prayer
           (i) Psalm 51:11-12
        c. Jesus' demonstration of prayer
     2. "praying... in the Spirit": Ephesians 6:18; Jude 1:20
     3. the Holy Spirit helps us to pray to Jesus and the Father
        a. "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.": Romans 8:26
           (i) "intercession" = to be present for the purpose of aiding, such as an advocate; hence, to intercede, aid, or assist (this particular word occurs no where else in the New Testament)
           (ii) the Holy Spirit greatly assists or aids us; not by praying for us, but in our prayers and infirmities
   C. Paul wants to see them again: 1 Thessalonians 3:11
      1. that will happen several years later
      2. admits that God directs their paths
   D. wants their love for each other to increase and continue to grow: 1 Thessalonians 3:12
      1. "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.": Leviticus 19:18
      2. "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.": John 13:35
      3. "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.": John 15:12
      4. "Let love be without hypocrisy.": Romans 12:9
      5. "Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.": Hebrews 13:1-2
      6. "If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself,' you do well": James 2:8
      7. "in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart": 1 Peter 1:22
8. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God...": 1 John 4:7-8

E. that the Lord would establish their hearts: 1 Thessalonians 3:13
   1. again emphasizing that it is important to be "established"

F. "blameless in holiness": 1 Thessalonians 3:13
   1. "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.": 2 Corinthians 7:1

G. "at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints (or holy ones)": 1 Thessalonians 3:13
   1. "saints" or "holy ones" probably means those who are saved
      a. some think that it might also include the angels
      b. the saved and the angels will both be there at the 2nd coming (the Day of the Lord)
   2. "the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him": Zechariah 14:5
   3. "the heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints": Psalms 89:5
   4. "there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven...": Daniel 4:13
   5. "I heard a holy one speaking...": Daniel 8:13
   6. "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints": Jude 1:14
   7. "the saints will judge the world... we will judge angels": 1 Corinthians 6:2-3
   8. "when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him...": Matthew 25:31
Lesson 4: 1 Thessalonians 4

I. Moral and Pure Living: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
   A. Paul is speaking of our general walk
      1. just like a caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly, we're to be "metamorphosed": Romans 12:1-2
      2. Philippians 1:6
         a. "He who has begun a good work in you...": justification or regeneration
         b. "will complete it...": the process of sanctification
         c. "until the day of Jesus Christ": glorification
   B. "Finally" (1 Thessalonians 4:1) just refers to a change of subject
      1. a transitional phrase
      2. "as for the rest"
      3. "furthermore"
      4. Paul uses this a number of other times in his letters
         a. 2 Corinthians 13:11
         b. Galatians 6:17
         c. Ephesians 6:10
         d. Philippians 4:8
   C. "abound more and more": 1 Thessalonians 4:1
      1. they were already doing a good job (1 Thessalonians 1:3, 7-8; 2:13-14; 4:9-10)
      2. but they had to keep progressing and not to slow down
   D. "how you ought to walk to please God": 1 Thessalonians 4:1
      1. his prayer at the end of the previous chapter was that they should be "blameless in holiness"
      2. "walk worthy": 1 Thessalonians 2:12
      3. in the book of Acts it was called "the Way": Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22
   E. the commandments Paul preached came from the Lord: 1 Thessalonians 4:2
      1. Paul wasn't setting up his own religion
      2. he wasn't preaching his own rules
   F. sexual immorality can interfere with the process of sanctification: 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
      1. sexual immorality was very prevalent, and even expected in that pagan culture
         a. just as it is in today's culture
         b. even in today's Christian circles
      2. sanctification
         a. being set apart for God
         b. the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit taking us from sin to holiness
         c. the rise and development of the new life
      3. the Christian walk should not be determined by what's acceptable by the world
         a. society should not affect the purity of our walk
         b. the "new morality" is nothing more than the "old immorality"
      4. we are the temple of God or of the Holy Spirit
         a. "the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord... flee sexual immorality... your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God... you are not your own... you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.": 1 Corinthians 6:13-20
         b. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.": 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
         c. 2 Corinthians 6:16
         d. Ephesians 2:21-22
         e. Hebrews 3:6
         f. 1 Peter 2:5
5. "vessel": 1 Thessalonians 4:4
   a. refers to our body
      (i) 1 Samuel 21:5
      (ii) Acts 9:15
      (iii) Romans 9:21-23
      (iv) 2 Corinthians 4:7; 5:1-2
      (v) 2 Timothy 2:21
      (vi) 1 Peter 3:7
   b. "I discipline my body": 1 Corinthians 9:27
   c. "we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles -- when we walked in lewdness, lusts...": 1 Peter 4:1-4

6. we should not follow the walk of those "who do not know God": 1 Thessalonians 4:5
   a. our bodies are not to be used for illicit sexuality
   b. "you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk... who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness...": Ephesians 4:17-19
   c. Romans 1:18-32
      (i) suppression of the knowledge of God leads to idolatry
      (ii) idolatry leads to immorality
      (iii) immorality leads to death

7. "defraud his brother in this matter": 1 Thessalonians 4:6
   a. sexual sins rob others
   b. we always live in someone else's love

8. "the Lord is the avenger": 1 Thessalonians 4:6
   a. Deuteronomy 32:35
   b. Psalms 94:1
   c. Romans 12:19
   d. Colossians 3:4-7
   e. 2 Thessalonians 1:8
   f. Hebrews 13:4

9. a reminder that we're to be holy: 1 Thessalonians 4:7
   a. "I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy.": Leviticus 11:44-45
   b. Leviticus 19:2; 20:7
   c. "not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'": 1 Peter 1:14-16

10. it's a sin against God: 1 Thessalonians 4:8
   a. it's a choice against the Holy Spirit

II. Everyday Living in Love Towards Each Other: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12
   A. they're doing quite well for their love throughout Macedonia: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10
      1. it's well-known: 1 Thessalonians 1:6-10
      2. they are making a good impact on society; they are good examples: 1 Thessalonians 1:7-8
      3. "that you increase more and more": 1 Thessalonians 4:10
         a. they're to keep up the good work
         b. we're never to be satisfied
         c. it's a lifelong journey
         d. "brethren, do not grow weary in doing good": 2 Thessalonians 3:13
   B. three solutions to potential sources of trouble: 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12
      1. "aspire to lead a quiet life"
         a. literally, "seek earnestly to be still"
         b. "be ambitious to be unambitious"
         c. "...that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence": 1 Timothy 2:2
         d. 2 Thessalonians 3:12
2. "mind your own business"
   a. not to gossip
   b. not to be busybodies
   c. 2 Thessalonians 3:11
3. "work with your own hands"
   a. learn a trade
   b. don't rely on others
   c. it's a call against idleness and laziness
   d. we're not to be parasites
   e. "let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need": Ephesians 4:28
   f. 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12
C. the result of following those 3 exhortations: 1 Thessalonians 4:12
   1. being a good witness for the Lord
      a. "to those who are outside"
      b. "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.": Colossians 4:6
      c. "...he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil." 1 Timothy 3:7
   2. provide for yourself
      a. "that you may lack nothing"

III. Jesus' Return for His Church: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
A. Jesus' 2nd Coming, Part 1
   1. Part 1 is the "blessed hope"
   2. Part 2 is judgment, the Day of the Lord
B. this discussion is apparently based on questions they sent back with Timothy
C. the idea of a resurrection is the ultimate absurdity to some
   1. the philosophers in Athens were interested in listening to Paul until he mentioned the resurrection:
      Acts 17:32
D. the idea of a future resurrection was anticipated in the Old Testament
   2. Isaiah 26:19-21
      a. Isaiah 26:20 sounds very much like John 14:1-3
E. concerning the resurrection of the dead, Jesus is the "firstfruit": 1 Corinthians 15:20
   1. "firstfruit" implies "later fruit"
   2. Jesus was first; we're later
   3. Jesus has to come for His saints before He can come with His saints (1 Thessalonians 3:13)
      a. the bride returns with Him, already adorned: Revelation 19:7-9, 14
F. Paul doesn't want them to be ignorant: 1 Thessalonians 4:13
   1. he wants them to understand
   2. Paul uses this phrase in other places
      a. Romans 1:13; 11:25
      b. 1 Corinthians 10:1; 12:1-2
      c. 2 Corinthians 1:8
G. "asleep": 1 Thessalonians 4:13
   1. a euphemism for being dead
      a. Jesus said this of Jarius' daughter: Matthew 9:24
      b. Jesus said this of Lazarus: John 11:11-14
      c. Stephen "fell asleep" when he died from stoning: Acts 7:60
      d. Matthew 27:52
      e. 1 Corinthians 7:39; 11:30; 15:6, 18, 20, 51
      f. 2 Peter 3:4
2. refers to the dead body and not the spirit
   a. 2 Corinthians 5:1-8
   b. Philippians 1:23
3. if we're not in this physical body we're eternally conscious someplace else
   a. death is separation between the body and the spirit
   b. Christians immediately go to be with Jesus
      (i) example is the thief on the cross: Luke 23:43
4. Christians don't get their eternal, resurrection bodies until this 2nd coming of Jesus for His bride
H. death is sorrowful for those who have no hope: 1 Thessalonians 4:13
   1. for the Christian this is the "blessed hope": Titus 2:13
   2. pagan religions have no hope; heathens are hopeless
I. God will bring with Him all those who have already died: 1 Thessalonians 4:14
   1. they were apparently concerned that those who have already died are at a disadvantage
   2. those who have died aren't going to be missing out on anything
J. "by the word of the Lord": 1 Thessalonians 4:15
   1. Paul may have received this new specific information directly from Jesus Himself
      b. Galatians 1:12; 2:2
      c. 1 Corinthians 11:23
   2. KJV has "prevent"; correct translation is "precede"
   3. those who are alive will not receive their eternal bodies before those who have died
K. Jesus comes back and raises the dead first: 1 Thessalonians 4:16
   1. "an archangel" not "the archangel"
   2. "with a shout"
      a. Jesus shouted for Lazarus: John 11:43
         (i) a specific person had to be named?!
         (ii) otherwise everyone would have come forth?!
      b. "Do not marvel at this, for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth…": John 5:28-29
   3. "trumpet of God"
      a. in Scripture trumpets were used to call assembly, at festivals and feasts, during war, etc.
      b. this "trumpet of God" has nothing to do with the 7 "trumpet judgments" of Revelation 8-11
         (i) this is for assembly
         (ii) the 7 "trumpet judgments" are for a Christ-rejecting world
      c. trumpets seen at Mount Sinai: Exodus 19:16-19; 20:18
      d. Matthew 24:31
      e. "at the last trumpet": 1 Corinthians 15:52
         (i) last trumpet in that series?
         (ii) last trumpet for us?
   4. "dead in Christ shall rise first"
      a. this is just for the church, the bride of Christ
         (i) Christians are baptized into a single body of Christ, integrated into a single unit called the church
            - 1 Corinthians 12:12-28
            - Galatians 3:27-28
            - Ephesians 1:22-23
            - Colossians 1:24
      b. this does not include the Old Testament saints
         (i) their resurrection is seen in Daniel 12:1-2
      c. there are 3 classifications of people: the Jew, the Gentile, and the church
         (i) 1 Corinthians 10:32
      d. within the church, there is no distinction between the Jew or the Gentile
         (i) Romans 10:12
         (ii) 1 Corinthians 12:13
         (iii) Galatians 3:27-28
         (iv) Colossians 3:11
L. "The Great Snatch": 1 Thessalonians 4:17
   1. those who are alive follow those who were "asleep" (dead)
   2. "harpazo" = to snatch out or away; to seize, carry off by force; to claim for one's self eagerly
      a. Paul was taken by force to safety by the Romans: Acts 23:10
      b. the Holy Spirit "caught Philip away" after baptizing the Ethiopian eunuch: Acts 8:39
      c. Paul speaks of someone being "caught up to the third heaven": 2 Corinthians 12:2
   3. "rapturo" in the Latin Vulgate
      a. from where we get the term, the Rapture
   4. "clouds" make regular appearances in Scripture
      a. Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62
      b. Acts 1:9
      c. Revelation 1:7
      d. "since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the
         sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
         looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith…": Hebrews 12:1-2
   5. "we shall always be with the Lord"
      a. what wonderful words of comfort!
      b. what a wonderful thing to look forward to!
M. this process is also seen in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
   1. "mystery": 1 Corinthians 15:51
      a. something hidden up until now
      b. not everyone is going to die; something strange and unusual is going to happen
      c. Colossians 1:26-27
   2. "in a moment… we shall all be changed": 1 Corinthians 15:52
      a. "moment" = "atomos," that which cannot be cut in two or divided; indivisible; an indivisible
         moment of time
      b. "an atom of time"
      c. one quanta = $10^{-43}$ seconds
      d. the "dead in Christ" are resurrected and get their new incorruptible bodies first, then we're changed
         into ours
   3. our bodies will be like His
      a. "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus
         Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body":
         Philippians 3:20-21
      b. "we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is":
         1 John 3:2
      c. "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation ("oiketerion") which is
         from heaven": 2 Corinthians 5:2
         (i) the fallen angels left their "habitation" (oiketerion): Jude 1:6
            - for some strange diabolical reason they left the "oiketerion" that we're eagerly looking
            forward to
N. "comfort one another with these words": 1 Thessalonians 4:18
   1. implies a "pre-wrath" or "pre-tribulation" experience
   2. protection from the wrath of God
      a. "hide for a little moment, until the fury has passed by": Isaiah 26:19-21
      b. "It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger": Zephaniah 2:3
      c. "For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His shelter, in the secrecy of His tabernacle He
         shall hide me": Psalms 27:5
Hebrew Marriage

1. Betrothal: The prospective groom travels from his father's house to the home of the prospective bride, paying the purchase price, and thus establishing the marriage covenant.

2. The groom returns to his father's house and remains separate from his bride, during which time he prepares the living accommodations for his bride in his father's house.

3. The groom comes for his bride at a time not known exactly to her; she lives in expectation until he surprises her on his return.

4. He returns with her to the groom's father's house for the wedding ceremony, to consummate the marriage, and to celebrate the wedding feast for the next seven days (during which the bride remains closeted in her bridal chamber).

In Revelation 19:7-9, the wedding feast is announced; it assumes the wedding has previously taken place. The Church is described as the virgin waiting for her bridegroom's coming: 2 Corinthians 11:2; see also Ephesians 5:22-23.

Jesus' Resurrection Body

• Could appear and disappear at will: Luke 24:31; John 20:19
• Could move through solid walls: John 20:19, 26 (at least ten dimensions?)
• Could be seen and felt; palpable: Matthew 28:9; Luke 24:36-42
• He could eat food, although it wasn't apparently necessary: Luke 24:41-43
• Though glorified, He could be recognized: Luke 24:30-31
• No more experience of death, aging, crying, mourning, sorrow, or pain: Revelation 21:4

OT Rapture Models?

• Enoch vs. Flood
   There were 3 types of people in the "days of Noah"
      1. those who perished in the flood
      2. those who were preserved through the flood
      3. those who were removed before the flood
   Enoch was "pre-flood"; he was not "mid-flood" or "post-flood."
• Sodom and Gomorrah
   Lot had to be removed before judgment could come: Genesis 19:22
• Fiery Furnace: Daniel 3
   Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were preserved through the fire by the Lord, but where was Daniel?!
• Ruth was at Boaz' feet during the Threshing floor scene: Ruth 3
Lesson 5: 1 Thessalonians 5

I. The Day Of The Lord, Introduction
   A. when God intervenes in history to deal directly with the wicked in judgment
      1. then to establish His kingdom
   B. the darkest period of all history
   C. "day of wrath… (on) all those who dwell in the land… because they have sinned against the Lord": Zephaniah 1:14-18
      1. not all judgment is God's wrath
      2. this is referring to something specific: "…that day…"
   D. "the time of Jacob's trouble": Jeremiah 30:7
   E. "the wrath of the Lamb": Revelation 6:12-17
   F. Joel 1:15; 2:1-3, 10-11, 15-16
      1. "Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room." : Joel 2:16
         a. very reminiscent of Isaiah 26:20-21!
   G. Isaiah 13:6-13
   H. Amos 5:18-20
   I. Zechariah 14:1-15
   J. Malachi 4:1
   K. no one knows when it will happen; it's unpredictable: Matthew 24:36, 44; 25:13; Mark 13:32
   L. comes as "a thief in the night" to those "of the night": 1 Thessalonians 5:2-5
   M. "on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth": Luke 21:35
   N. upon those who "dwell on the earth": Revelation 3:10; 6:10; 11:10; 13:8, 12, 14; 14:6; 17:8
   O. to the unsaved, judgment is just as certain as death

II. The Day Of The Lord: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
   A. Paul had previously taught them about the Day of the Lord: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2
   B. "times and the seasons": 1 Thessalonians 5:1
      1. sequence or order of events
      2. Jesus said to His disciples, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority… you shall be witnesses to Me": Acts 1:6-8
         a. he's saying that, "you have some work to do for Me first"
      3. "He changes the times and the seasons…": Daniel 2:19-22
      4. "of that day and hour no one knows… but My Father only… therefore you also be ready": Matthew 24:36-44; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 21:34-36
   C. "as a thief in the night": 1 Thessalonians 5:2
      1. same idiom used a number of other places
         a. "the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night": 2 Peter 3:10
         b. "Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you." : Revelation 3:3
         c. "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches": Revelation 16:15
         d. "But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.": Luke 12:39-40; Matthew 24:43-44
      2. no warning, it will be a surprise
      3. to those "of the night": 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5
   D. "they say, 'Peace and safety!'": 1 Thessalonians 5:3
      1. they thought everything was fine; they thought they were safe from the coming wrath?
      2. thought they had a bright future, so they conducted business as usual?
      3. denial or wishful thinking?
      4. were false prophets telling them this; were they being given incorrect information?
         a. part of "the lie" of 2 Thessalonians 2:11?
            (i) Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11; 14:13-14
            (ii) Lamentations 2:14
            (iii) Ezekiel 13:10, 16-17
(iv) Micah 3:5-7
   c. true prophets are lead by the Holy Spirit
      (i) Micah 3:8
      (ii) 2 Peter 1:20-21

5. examples of not being prepared for judgment
   a. Isaiah 56:12 (presumption and lack of sobriety)
   b. Nahum 1:10-11 (distractions, not being alert, and lack of sobriety)

E. "sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains": 1 Thessalonians 5:3
   1. it's inescapable, unavoidable; "they shall not escape"
   2. wants it to end
   3. this idiom of a woman in labor is often used in Scripture
      a. Psalms 48:6
      b. Isaiah 13:8; 21:3
      d. Hosea 13:13
      e. Micah 4:9-10

F. we are not in darkness: 1 Thessalonians 5:4-5
   1. Jesus won't be coming as a thief for us
   2. all of this is for those in darkness, for those "of the night"
   3. we are of the light and day, not darkness and night
   4. when we're saved we go from "darkness to light"
      a. "open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the authority of Satan to God": Acts 26:18
      b. Romans 13:11-13
      c. Isaiah 42:6-7, 16 = 2 Corinthians 4:6
      d. "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord": Ephesians 5:8
      e. Colossians 1:13
      f. "...who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light": 1 Peter 2:9
      g. "The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.": Psalms 119:130
      h. Proverbs 4:18-19
      i. "the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light": John 3:19-21
         (i) indicates the need for repentance
      j. "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'": John 8:12
      k. no "Twilight Zone" here

G. "Therefore...": 1 Thessalonians 5:6
   1. prophetic studies should affect our lives; there should be application
   2. His imminent return should prompt us to action and spur us to change our lives
   3. "watch" is the opposite of "sleep"
      a. we must not be complacent or get lazy with our relationship with the Lord, or the things He wants us to be doing
      b. an example of watching vs. sleeping is Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane
         (i) Peter, James, and John were told to "watch and pray" but they fell asleep
         (ii) Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-41
   4. "sober" = self-controlled, alert
   5. wakeful activity, being on the alert against the assaults of sin and unrighteousness
      a. Matthew 24:42-44
      b. Mark 13:32-36
   6. His return is one of the chief objects of Christian watchfulness
      a. 1 Corinthians 1:7
      b. Philippians 3:20-21
      c. 2 Timothy 4:8
      d. Titus 2:13
      e. Hebrews 9:28
      f. 2 Peter 3:11-12
H. "sleep… drunk… at night": 1 Thessalonians 5:7
   1. the exact opposite is used to contrast what we should be doing
      a. we're to watch, not to sleep
      b. we're to be sober, not drunk
      c. we're of the day, not the night
I. we are warriors: 1 Thessalonians 5:8
   1. "let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light": Romans 13:12
   2. "the weapons of righteousness": 2 Corinthians 6:7
   3. "put on the whole armor of God": Ephesians 6:10-18
   4. "breastplate": Isaiah 59:17; Ephesians 6:14
      a. faith is also a shield: Ephesians 6:16
   5. "helmet of salvation": Isaiah 59:17; Ephesians 6:17
   6. the "faith… love… hope" trio is seen again as in 1 Thessalonians 1:3
J. we are not appointed to wrath: 1 Thessalonians 5:9
   1. wrath is the opposite of salvation
   2. "Jesus… delivers us from the wrath to come": 1 Thessalonians 1:10
   3. in this context it speaks of the coming judgment on the earth
      a. also perfectly applies to the eternal wrath coming to the unsaved
   4. Lot had to be removed before judgment could come upon Sodom and Gomorrah: Genesis 19:22
      a. Lot was righteous: 2 Peter 2:7-9
   5. "I will keep you from the hour of testing that is coming…": Revelation 3:10
K. the Lord Jesus Christ is the only source of this salvation: 1 Thessalonians 5:9b-10
   1. salvation came through His death
   2. whether we live or die, we'll be with Jesus
      a. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
      b. John 14:3
L. "comfort and edify each other": 1 Thessalonians 5:11
   1. "just like you're doing"
   2. the Thessalonians were doing a good job
   3. our hope in Christ is how we edify and comfort each other
      a. doing 5:8-10 should result in 5:11
III. Various Exhortations: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
A. recognize and support the leaders in the church: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
   1. "brethren" speaks of the family of God
      a. he's talking to all of us
   2. "labor among you"
      a. fatiguing labor
   3. they're leaders "over you"
      a. overseer, elder, pastor, bishop are synonyms
         i. 1 Timothy 3:1-7
         ii. Titus 1:5-9
         iii. Acts 20:28
         iv. Hebrews 13:7, 17
   4. "admonish you"
      a. "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another": Colossians 3:16
   5. "esteem them very highly"
      a. cherish, consider, or deem them highly
      b. they're doing a very important job
      c. "them" indicates plurality of spiritual teachers and leadership
         i. Acts 13:1; 14:23
   6. "Be at peace among yourselves."
      a. no church can grow spiritually unless there is peace among its members
      b. "endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace": Ephesians 4:3
c. "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which you also are called in one body, and be thankful."—Colossians 3:15

d. "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men."—Romans 12:18

B. "warn those who are unruly": 1 Thessalonians 5:14
1. disorderly, unarranged, religiously insubordinate
2. out of ranks, such as of soldiers
3. this can be contagious
4. Paul addresses this again in 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12
   a. idlers and busybodies

C. "comfort the fainthearted": 1 Thessalonians 5:14
1. "comfort" = to encourage; to calm and console; to speak with admonition and incentive
2. "little spirited" = the discouraged, the dispirited, the disheartened, the downcast

D. "uphold the weak": 1 Thessalonians 5:14
1. "we ought to help the weak": Acts 20:35
2. "We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves."—Romans 15:1
   a. "scruples of the weak" = errors arising from weakness of mind

E. "be patient with all": 1 Thessalonians 5:14
1. to be patient in bearing the offenses and injuries of others
2. "Love is always patient": 1 Corinthians 13:4

F. "See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.": 1 Thessalonians 5:15
1. "Repay no one evil for evil...overcome evil with good": Romans 12:17-21
2. "Never give back evil for evil...": 1 Peter 3:9
3. "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles": Proverbs 24:17
4. "Do not say, 'I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.'": Proverbs 24:29
5. "love your enemies...": Matthew 5:44-45
6. "So then let us pursue the things of peace, and the things for building up one another."—Romans 14:19

G. "rejoice always": 1 Thessalonians 5:16
1. "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!": Philippians 4:4
2. Jesus said, "rejoice because your names are written in Heaven": Luke 10:20
3. "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation": Psalms 51:12
4. shortest verse in the Greek Bible

H. "pray without ceasing": 1 Thessalonians 5:17
1. Paul is a "without ceasing" kind of guy
   a. Paul uses this term exclusively
   b. Romans 1:9
   c. 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 2:13; 5:17
2. he's saying, "have a continual habit of prayer"
3. "continuing steadfastly in prayer": Romans 12:12
4. "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving": Colossians 4:2
5. Nehemiah was instantly ready to say a prayer: Nehemiah 2:4

I. "in everything give thanks": 1 Thessalonians 5:18
1. "in" everything, not "for" everything
2. live a thankful and grateful life
   a. it's common for unbelievers to be ungrateful and thankless
      (i) Romans 1:21
      (ii) 2 Timothy 3:1-5
   3. recognize that all circumstances are "Father-filtered"
      a. we can get through them and learn from them
      b. "God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."—1 Corinthians 10:13
c. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

4. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.": Philippians 4:6

5. "And everything, whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.": Colossians 3:17

6. "for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"
   a. that we rejoice because of Him
   b. that we have a habit of prayer
   c. that we're constantly grateful

J. "Do not quench the Spirit." : 1 Thessalonians 5:19

1. "quench" = extinguish
2. "do not put out the Spirit's fire"
3. "He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire": Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16
4. "…by the spirit of burning": Isaiah 4:4
5. do we allow the Holy Spirit to burn within us?!
6. the Holy Spirit is there to teach us and give us understanding of the Scriptures: give us joy, peace, and love; comfort us; guide us; etc.
7. "do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God": Ephesians 4:30
   a. How? Just by saying, "no"

K. "Do not despise prophecies." : 1 Thessalonians 5:20

1. prophecy is explaining and interpreting the Word of God
2. a divine revelation, a message that is only spiritually discerned
   a. more than just "fore-telling" but also "forth-telling"
   b. must always agree with Scripture
   (i) there is no such thing as a "new" revelation
3. the purpose of prophecies is for the edification, exhortation, and comfort of the church
   a. "he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church." : 1 Corinthians 14:1-5
   b. "For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged." : 1 Corinthians 14:31
4. we must always be ready to recognize the message of God
5. we are never to think that we don't need continual instruction, or hearing the preaching of the Word

L. "Test all things; hold fast what is good": 1 Thessalonians 5:21

1. to test, examine, prove, scrutinize to see whether a thing is genuine or not
2. to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy
3. "searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so": Acts 17:11
   a. "searched" = scrutinize; investigate; interrogate, ask, question; determine; discern; examine; judge
4. "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world." : 1 John 4:1-3

5. What are some of the good things we should hold on to?
   a. there are a number of lists in the Bible, but here are just some "pump-primers"
   (i) Romans 12:2
   (ii) Proverbs 3:21; 4:13; 23:23
   (iii) Philippians 4:8
   (iv) 2 Thessalonians 2:15
   (v) 2 Timothy 3:14
   (vi) Titus 1:9
   (vii)Hebrews 3:6; 4:14; 10:23

M. "Abstain from every form of evil." : 1 Thessalonians 5:22

1. "appearance of evil" is not a good translation
2. "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul": 1 Peter 2:11
3. "turn away from evil and do good": Psalms 34:14 = 1 Peter 3:11
IV. Closing: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

A. sanctification is mentioned again: 1 Thessalonians 5:23
   1. only through God's power can we be separated from sin to holiness
      a. but we have to be willing
   2. God's Word is important
      a. Jesus said to His Father, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.": John 17:17
      b. we need to immerse ourselves in the Bible

B. "spirit… soul… body": 1 Thessalonians 5:23
   1. man's "trinity"
   2. we're created in the image of God: Genesis 1:26-27

C. He is faithful to finish what He started: 1 Thessalonians 5:24
   1. "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until
      the day of Jesus Christ": Philippians 1:6

D. "pray for us": 1 Thessalonians 5:25
   1. the most important thing we can do for others is to pray for them
   2. "Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you
      strive together with me in prayers to God for me": Romans 15:30

E. "a holy kiss": 1 Thessalonians 5:26
   1. a cultural thing
   2. seen in other places
      a. Romans 16:16
      b. 1 Corinthians 16:20
      c. 2 Corinthians 13:12
      d. 1 Peter 5:14
   3. we're to treat other Christians as family

F. Paul wanted them to read this letter to everyone: 1 Thessalonians 5:27
   1. he wanted another of his letters to be passed on to others: Colossians 4:16
   2. he considered what he was writing as authority: 2 Thessalonians 3:14
   3. did he know what he was writing was of utmost value and importance?
   4. did he know that he was writing parts of the Bible?!

G. "grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you": 1 Thessalonians 5:28
   1. a closing similar to some of his other letters
      a. Romans 16:20, 24
      b. 2 Thessalonians 3:18
Differences Between the "Blessed Hope" (or the "Rapture") and the "Day of the Lord"

(adapted from Cosmic Codes by Chuck Missler and Here's the Difference by William MacDonald)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>&quot;Rapture&quot;</strong></th>
<th><strong>&quot;Day of the Lord&quot;</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Translation of all believers</td>
<td>No translation at all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affects Church believers only</td>
<td>Affects all men on the earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translated saints go to heaven</td>
<td>Translated saints return to the earth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christ comes for His own, for His bride</td>
<td>Christ comes with His own, with His bride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ comes for His saints (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)</td>
<td>Christ comes with His saints (1 Thessalonians 3:13; Jude 1:14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>He comes in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)</td>
<td>He comes to the earth (Zechariah 14:4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Only His own see Him</td>
<td>Every eye shall see Him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invisible by the world; takes place in an instant, in a &quot;twinkling of an eye&quot; (1 Corinthians 15:52)</td>
<td>Visible world-wide (Matthew 24:27; Revelation 1:7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth not judged</td>
<td>Earth judged; righteousness established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of blessing and comfort (1 Thessalonians 4:18)</td>
<td>Time of judgment (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ comes as the &quot;bright and morning star&quot; (Revelation 22:16)</td>
<td>Christ comes as the &quot;Sun of Righteousness with healing in His wings&quot; (Malachi 4:2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A final tribulation period begins</td>
<td>Millennial Kingdom begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Before the day of wrath</td>
<td>Concludes the day of wrath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imminent, at any moment; no signs</td>
<td>Follows definite predicted signs, including the Tribulation period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not clearly found in the Old Testament</td>
<td>Clearly and often predicted in the Old Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A mystery; a truth unknown in Old Testament times (1 Corinthians 15:51)</td>
<td>Numerous well-known prophecies (Psalm 72; Isaiah 11; Zechariah 14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No reference to Satan</td>
<td>Satan bound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 6: 2 Thessalonians 1

I. Introduction
   A. Paul possibly wrote this only a few months after his first letter
   B. may be a response to a forgery that was being circulated
      1. forgery might have been teaching them that the Day of the Lord had started
      2. it was leading to confusion and frustration
      3. "you should not be soon shaken in mind or troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word or letter, as through us": 2 Thessalonians 2:2
   C. in both of these epistles Paul was reminding them of what he already taught them
      1. "Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you": 2 Thessalonians 2:5
      2. "stand fast and hold the teachings which you have been taught, whether by word or by our letter": 2 Thessalonians 2:15
   D. historians say that it was in Thessalonica that the Gentile church started being persecuted by other Gentiles (Roman Empire) for the first time
      1. previously it was predominantly the Jewish leaders causing the persecutions
      2. the first great persecutions, the first burnings, and the first crucifixions in Gentile areas

II. Salutation: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2
   A. very similar opening as in 1 Thessalonians
   B. Silas and Timothy is still there with Paul
   C. "to" the church, not "from" the church
      1. the church is being taught; the church is not doing the teaching
         a. the church does not set doctrine
         b. the church is taught the true, unchanging, and sound doctrine
   D. "…in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ": 2 Thessalonians 1:1
      1. speaks of union, of being of one body, and in one family
      2. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.": 2 Corinthians 5:17
      3. "to the saints in Christ": Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2
      4. "we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ": 1 John 5:20
      5. "Abide in Me, and I in you.": John 15:4-6
      6. "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." Romans 8:1
      7. "so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another": Romans 12:5
      8. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28
      9. "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus…": Ephesians 2:10

III. "bound to thank God always for you": 2 Thessalonians 1:3
   A. "bound" = to owe, be in debt for, be obligated
      1. we're obligated to thank God for each other!
   B. Paul often thanked God for other people and what He was doing in them
      1. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; 2:13
      2. 2 Thessalonians 2:13
      3. Romans 1:8-9
      4. 1 Corinthians 1:4
      5. Ephesians 1:15-16
      6. Philippians 1:3-4
      7. Colossians 1:3-4
      8. Philemon 1:4-7
   C. he's thankful for two things
      1. "your faith grows exceedingly"
         a. "grows exceedingly" = to increase beyond measure, above ordinary degree; greatly enlarged
         b. their faith was well-known: 1 Thessalonians 1:8
         c. an answer to Paul's prayer and concern in 1 Thessalonians 3:2, 5; 4:1
2. "the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other"
   a. "abounds" = superabound, abundant; to exist in abundance
   b. answer to his prayer of 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 4:9-10

D. he was interested in the trend of their faith and love
   1. although they weren't perfect yet, they were growing
   2. trends are important
   3. what is the trend of our faith and love doing?
   4. are we closer to the Lord than last year at this time?

E. "faith… love…", but where is "hope"?!
   1. he doesn't specifically use the word "hope" but instead describes it in 2 Thessalonians 1:7
   2. their "hope" of the future coming of Jesus needed to be further clarified to them
   3. he did not want their hope to be frustrated
   4. because of the result of a forgery?

F. Paul's method of commending them
   1. he did not flatter them, because that might lead to pride and would rob God of His glory
   2. he did not keep silent and just pray privately for them, because that might discourage them
   3. Paul thanks God for them and tells them that he is doing that

IV. "patience and faith in all your persecutions": 2 Thessalonians 1:4
   A. Paul uses them as a good example to others
   B. "patience" = endurance, constancy, patient enduring; staying under the load
   C. they're enduring the troubles well
   D. they're not loosing faith
   E. "The storm measures the sailor, not the calm sea."
   F. "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.": 2 Timothy 3:12
   G. "If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.": 2 Timothy 2:12
   H. we're not here to be popular or politically correct, but to contend for the faith
   I. Jesus said, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.":
      Matthew 10:34

V. It's God's Righteous Judgment That Those Who Are Afflicting The Church Are Going To Be Punished:
   2 Thessalonians 1:5-6
   A. "it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord": Romans 12:19
   B. "Vengeance and retribution belong to Me. Their foot shall slide in time, for the day of their calamity is at
      hand, and the things that shall come on them make haste.": Deuteronomy 32:35
      1. "In the day of vengeance I will recompense…" (1851 Brenton's English Septuagint)
   C. "I will give vengeance to My enemies and will reward those that hate Me.": Deuteronomy 32:41
   D. "He will avenge the blood of His servants, and will render vengeance to His foes": Deuteronomy 32:43
   E. "According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, fury to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies;
      the coastlands He will fully repay.": Isaiah 59:18
   F. vengeance is not vindictiveness, but the administering of unwavering, perfect justice

VI. Their Comfort, The Promised Hope: 2 Thessalonians 1:7
   A. those afflicted will receive rest
      1. this is the "hope"
      2. this is what we're to be "comforted" with
         a. 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11
      3. the Day of the Lord isn't for us: our penalty has already been paid for at the cross
   B. "with us"
      1. all Christians are translated or "snatched away" at the same time
      2. "we shall all be changed -- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye": 1 Corinthians 15:51-52
      3. there is no "partial Rapture"
   C. "when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven"
      1. refers to 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
VII. Day Of The Lord: 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10

A. "in flaming fire": 2 Thessalonians 1:8
1. fire is a common idiom of judgment
   a. "For behold, the Lord will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by His sword the Lord will judge all flesh; and the slain of the Lord shall be many.": Isaiah 66:15-16
   b. "Your hand will find all Your enemies; Your right hand will find those who hate You. You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; the Lord shall swallow them up in His wrath, and the fire shall devour them.": Psalms 21:8-9
   c. the burning bush: Exodus 3:2

B. "on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ": 2 Thessalonians 1:8
1. those who are not saved are the objects of His wrath
2. the Day of the Lord isn't for those who are saved (the church)

C. good, simple description of hell: 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9
1. there is very little detail in Scripture about heaven and hell
   a. but there are more details about hell than heaven
2. fire and eternal separation from the Lord's presence and glory
3. eternal punishment and suffering
4. Jesus said it's "the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels": Matthew 25:41
   a. "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.": Revelation 20:10
5. total hopelessness
6. not annihilation or extinguishing of the consciousness
   a. that's too easy

D. "glorified in His saints": 2 Thessalonians 1:10
1. there is something special about the bride and groom being united
2. we probably can't begin to understand what it all means…
   a. our position "in Christ"
   b. how we will fulfill each other
   c. how wonderful this will be
3. Jesus prayed to His Father, "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.": John 17:10
4. it's a reciprocal, mutual relationship, "that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him": 2 Thessalonians 1:12
5. "...the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.": Ephesians 1:23
6. this was all a mystery
   a. "by revelation He made known to me the mystery… which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel": Ephesians 3:3-6
   b. "...the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God": Ephesians 3:9
   c. "we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.": 1 Corinthians 2:7-8
7. the church is being used to demonstrate God's love, wisdom, and purposes to the angels
   a. "that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.": Ephesians 2:7
   b. "...the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God… to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places": Ephesians 3:9-10
   c. "For I think that God has displayed us… we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.": 1 Corinthians 4:9
d. "Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven -- things which angels desire to look into.": 1 Peter 1:10-12

VIII. "we also pray always for you": 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
A. Paul often prayed for others unceasingly
1. Romans 1:9-10
2. Colossians 1:9; 4:12
3. 2 Timothy 1:3
4. he also said to pray with thanksgiving: 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18
   a. and that's what he did
B. "that our God would count you worthy of this calling": 2 Thessalonians 1:11
   1. "that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God": 2 Thessalonians 1:5
   2. "that you should walk worthy of God, who has called you to His kingdom and glory":
      1 Thessalonians 2:12
   3. "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you that you walk worthy of the calling with which you are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.": Ephesians 4:1-3
C. "work of faith": 2 Thessalonians 1:11
   1. this phrase is also seen in 1 Thessalonians 1:3
   2. demonstrated by how they "turned to God from idols": 1 Thessalonians 1:9
   3. "…faith working through love": Galatians 5:6
   4. faith is always busy
D. "that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him": 2 Thessalonians 1:12
   1. "name" refers to the whole character of God
   2. that they will be good representatives of the Lord
      a. this applies to us, too!
      b. we need to "walk worthy"
      c. we're His ambassadors
         (i) "we are ambassadors on behalf of Christ": 2 Corinthians 5:20
         (ii) "You are the light of the world.": Matthew 5:14
   d. we need to protect His reputation
   e. we need to honor Him in our behavior
   3. it's by "the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ"

"Do the urgent things in life preempt the important things?!!"
Lesson 7: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

I. Introduction
   A. one of the most important prophetic passages in the New Testament
   B. outlines 3 prerequisite events to the Day of the Lord
      1. the apostasy
      2. the removal of the "restrainer"
      3. the revealing of the "man of sin"
   C. further comforts the Thessalonians because these 3 things haven't happened yet

II. Opening Words of Comfort: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2
   A. "brethren" indicates that this message is for the family of God: 2 Thessalonians 2:1
      1. he's treating them as family
   B. "coming… gathering": 2 Thessalonians 2:1
      1. refers to the single event that was outlined in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
   C. they're not to think that the Day of the Lord was upon them: 2 Thessalonians 2:2
      1. better translation is "Day of the Lord" instead of "Day of Christ"
      a. according to what are probably the better original manuscripts
      2. he's going to explain to them that there are 3 things that must happen first
      a. and they haven't happened yet
   D. "as if from us": 2 Thessalonians 2:2
      1. indicates that a forgery may have been circulated
      2. they were previously told that they weren't going to go through it
      3. this letter is to refute that other letter regarding the Day of the Lord
         a. clarifies the subject
         b. it's not for the church
         c. provides additional information in writing

III. The Coming Apostasy: 2 Thessalonians 2:3
   A. one of the prerequisite events to the Day of the Lord
   B. "let no one deceive you"
      1. Paul feels that details about prophecy are important to understand
      2. he didn't want anyone robbing their comfort and joy
      3. we should strive to accurately understand everything in Scripture
      4. we should always be careful that we're not deceived
   C. "the", a definite article, refers to a specific event
      1. this will be the great revolt of the end times
   D. "apostasy" or "falling away" = deliberate abandonment of a formerly professed position or view; defection from the truth; a rejection of a former alliance; a departure from the faith
   E. cannot be the Rapture
      1. the Rapture is not a "departure" but a "snatching away"
      2. the cult that believed that a UFO was hiding behind the Hale-Bopp comet was involved in a "departure": they committed suicide to get to the UFO
   F. "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy...": 1 Timothy 4:1-3
   G. "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unlending, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power.": 2 Timothy 3:1-5
   H. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.": 2 Timothy 4:3-4

I. James 5:1-8
J. 2 Peter 2:1-22; 3:3-7
K. Jude
IV. "the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition": 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4
   A. a second prerequisite event to the Day of the Lord
   B. "revealed" refers to a definite time when the veil of mystery will be removed
   C. this individual has about 33 titles or descriptions in the Old Testament and about 13 titles or descriptions in the New Testament (see Addendum)
   D. "perdition" = damnable, destruction, ruin; the destruction which consists of eternal misery in hell
   E. "the antichrist" is a name we commonly use
      1. "antichrist" = opposite of, or instead of the Christ
         a. a replacement
         b. Satan's parody
      2. this term is only used by John in his letters
         a. 1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3
         b. 2 John 1:7
         c. why doesn't John use it in the book of the Revelation?!
   F. "exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped": 2 Thessalonians 2:4
      1. self-deification
      2. he will replace all forms of "god"
      3. he will replace all forms of worship
      4. somehow he will be the one and only divinity to all the religions of the world
      5. somehow he will be the answer for all religions
      6. he will be the ultimate in deception
      7. the ultimate embodiment of evil will rule the world
      8. Daniel 11:36-37
   G. "he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God": 2 Thessalonians 2:4
      1. "temple of God" probably refers to the "holy of holies"
      2. this is the "abomination of desolation": Matthew 24:15-22; Mark 13:14-20; Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11
         a. does "…when you see…” (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:15) mean it's going to be televised?!

V. This Is Just A Reminder To Them: 2 Thessalonians 2:5
   A. they were told all this when Paul was with them
   B. this is not news to them
   C. he's reinforcing what he already told them

VI. The Restrainer: 2 Thessalonians 2:6-7
   A. revealing of the antichrist is being prevented
   B. only God can restrain, restrict, or limit Satan or sin
      1. Job 1:12; 2:6
      2. Isaiah 59:19
      4. Romans 16:20
      5. 1 Corinthians 10:13
      6. James 4:7
      7. Revelation 12:12; 13:5
   C. the restrainer can only be the Holy Spirit
   D. the restrainer is spoken of in the neuter (2:6) and then in the masculine (2:7)
      1. this is done of the Holy Spirit in other places, too
         b. Ephesians 1:13-14
   E. "revealed in his own time": 2 Thessalonians 2:6
      1. it's all being planned
      2. God is in control
      3. he's only going to be allowed a specific time
         a. Revelation 12:12; 13:5
F. "lawlessness" = contempt and violation of law, iniquity, wickedness; illegality, violation of law
   1. the absence of absolutes
      a. everything is relative
      b. lack of definitive concepts of right and wrong
      c. values can change
      d. no absolute truth

G. "already at work": 2 Thessalonians 2:7
   1. the active operation of a supernatural power
      a. such as, "the Word of God… works in you": 1 Thessalonians 2:13
   2. the spirit of lawlessness is clearly seen in our society
   3. "according to the working of Satan": 2 Thessalonians 2:9

H. "until": 2 Thessalonians 2:7
   1. a specific time
   2. a definite event

I. "He is taken out of the way": 2 Thessalonians 2:7
   1. or "taken out of the midst", or "taken from among the midst"
   2. this is a third prerequisite to the Day of the Lord
   3. "He" is masculine
      a. it's a person, not a force
      b. it's certainly not the government
   4. "God taken from the midst" can only be the Holy Spirit
   5. speaks of the Rapture of the Church
      a. the Holy Spirit indwells the Christians forever
         (i) "…that He may abide with you forever -- the Spirit of truth… He dwells with you and will be in you": John 14:16-17
         (ii) we cannot accurately sing Psalm 51!
            - "…take not thy Holy Spirit from me…" (Psalms 51:11)
         (iii) "the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you…": Romans 8:11
         (iv) 2 Timothy 1:14
      b. we are the temple of God or of the Holy Spirit
         (i) 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
         (ii) 1 Corinthians 6:13-20
         (iii) 2 Corinthians 6:16
         (iv) Ephesians 2:21-22
         (v) Hebrews 3:6
         (vi) 1 Peter 2:5
      c. the Holy Spirit is our seal of the promise
         (i) "you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise": Ephesians 1:13
         (ii) "…the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption": Ephesians 4:30
         (iii) "who also has sealed us and given the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee": 2 Corinthians 1:22
      d. the "Church" started at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given in a unique way (Acts 2); the "Church" will end when the Holy Spirit is removed at the "Great Snatch"
         (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

VII. "And then the lawless one will be revealed": 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

A. we are never told to look for the revealing of this person
   1. a lot is written about him
   2. we're not to waste our time trying to guess who it is
      a. he may not be totally human
      b. he may or may not even be around today
   3. our removal is necessary before he can be revealed and come to power
      a. he won't be revealed until we're out of here
B. "the Lord will consume… and destroy": 2 Thessalonians 2:8
   1. "with the breath of His mouth… with the brightness of His coming"
      a. sounds rather effortless
   2. he will be thrown directly into the lake of fire: Revelation 19:20
      a. both the "beast" and the "false prophet" of Revelation 13
C. "according to the working of Satan": 2 Thessalonians 2:9
   1. it is the definite aim of Satan to overthrow the laws of God
   2. he wants to be like God
      a. Isaiah 14:12-14
      b. 2 Thessalonians 2:4
D. "with all power, signs, and lying wonders": 2 Thessalonians 2:9
   1. G1411 = "power" or "miracles"
   2. G4592 = "signs"
   3. G5059 = "wonders"
   4. these three exact words are used to describe miracles
      a. of Jesus Christ: Acts 2:22
      b. of the early apostolic Church: Hebrews 2:4
   5. speaking of the false prophet, "he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs (G4592) which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast": Revelation 13:14
   6. these will be authentic miracles
      a. not just tricks
      b. not just camera tricks or special effects
   7. Satan is a liar by nature
      a. "...there is no truth in him… he is a liar and the father of it": John 8:44
      b. Acts 5:3; 13:10
      c. 2 Corinthians 11:3, 13-15
      d. Revelation 12:9; 20:2-3, 10
E. "with all unrighteous deception": 2 Thessalonians 2:10
   1. sounds redundant, like a double-negative
      a. for emphasis?
   2. "among those who perish"
      a. only those who are perishing will be affected by the deceptions
      b. these are the unsaved
      c. the church is not here to be deceived
   3. they are perishing because they "did not receive the love of the truth"
      a. they rejected the truth
      b. "men loved darkness rather than light": John 3:19
VIII. "God will send them strong delusion": 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12
A. their choice of evil will be how they will be punished
   1. "Just as they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations, so will I choose their delusions, and bring their fears on them; because, when I called, no one answered, when I spoke they did not hear; but they did evil before My eyes, and chose that in which I do not delight.": Isaiah 66:3b-4
   2. Jeremiah 6:6-19
   3. sin can be its own punishment
      a. "greed… takes away life": Proverbs 1:19
      b. "His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin.": Proverbs 5:22
      c. Psalms 7:14-16; 9:15-16
      d. sin leads to a downward progression
         (i) "Blessed is who walks not… nor stands… nor sits…": Psalms 1:1
         (ii) Romans 1:18-32
4. you can cross a line, you can reach a point of no return
   a. to demonstrate His power, and to punish Pharaoh and Egypt, God hardened Pharaoh's heart
      (i) "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of
          Egypt.": Exodus 7:3
      (ii) "Now the Lord said to Moses, 'Go in to Pharaoh; for I have hardened his heart and the hearts
          of his servants, that I may show these signs of Mine before him'": Exodus 10:1
      (iii) "Then I will harden Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over
          Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the Lord.'":
          Exodus 14:4
      (iv) "And I indeed will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them. So I will
          gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, his chariots, and his horsemen.'":
          Exodus 14:17
   (v) Exodus 4:21; 7:13-14, 22; 8:19; 9:7, 12, 35; 10:20, 27; 11:10; 14:8
   (vi) at times they hardened their own hearts, too
      - Exodus 8:15, 32; 9:34-35
      - 1 Samuel 6:6

b. the Jews were afraid to go into the Promised Land: Numbers 14:22-24

B. they will believe "the lie"
   1. a specific lie
   2. 2 Thessalonians 2:4?
   3. roles are reversed between God and Satan?
   4. evil becomes their good?
   5. God and the Christians are portrayed as being the troublemakers?
   6. Satan has the answers of peace?

C. "who did not believe the truth": 2 Thessalonians 2:12
   1. those who did not believe the truth will believe the lie

D. "but had pleasure in unrighteousness": 2 Thessalonians 2:12
   1. willful rejection of the truth
   2. "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased
      mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality,
      wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are
      whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to
      parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous
      judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but
      also approve of those who practice them.'": Romans 1:28-32

Addendum: references to "the antichrist"

(Acts 17:11 applies here! Do not automatically take the following as absolute facts. Your mileage may vary!)

These lists are adapted from the Supplemental Notes for The Book of Revelation by Chuck Missler

He will have a "Big Mouth" (6X!): Daniel 7:8, 11, 20; 11:36; Psalms 52; 2 Thessalonians 2:4.
He will be the Son of Satan: Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 27:1; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Revelation 13.
He will be an intellectual genius: Daniel 7:20; 8:23; Ezekiel 28:3.
He will be an oratorical genius: Daniel 7:20; Revelation 13:2.
He will be a political genius: Daniel 11:21.
He will be a commercial genius: Daniel 8:25; 11:38, 43; Revelation 13:17; Psalms 52:7; Ezekiel 28:4-5.
He will be a military genius: Daniel 8:24; Revelation 6:2; 13:4; Isaiah 14:16.
He will be a governmental genius: Revelation 13:1-2; 17:17.
He will be a religious genius: 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 13:3; 14-15.

See also: Psalms 10, 52, 55; Isaiah 10, 11, 13, 14; Jeremiah 49-51; Zechariah 5; Revelation 18.
### 33 Titles in the Old Testament for "the antichrist"

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<td>Assyrian</td>
<td>Isaiah 10:5, 12</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Bloody and Deceitful Man</td>
<td>Psalms 5:6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Branch of the Terrible Ones</td>
<td>Isaiah 25:5 (cf. Isaiah 14:19)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chief Prince</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crooked Serpent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cruel One</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head Over Many Countries</td>
<td>Psalms 110:6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Head of Northern Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idol or Worthless Shepherd</td>
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<tr>
<td>King of Princes</td>
<td>Hosea 8:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King of Babylon</td>
<td>Isaiah 14:11-20 (cf. 30:31-33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Horn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Man of the Earth</td>
<td>Psalms 10:18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merchant, deceitful and oppressive</td>
<td>Hosea 12:7</td>
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<td>Mighty Man</td>
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<td>Nail</td>
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<td>Prince That Shall Come</td>
<td>Daniel 9:26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prince of Tyre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profane Wicked Prince of Israel</td>
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<td>Proud Man</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rod of God's Anger</td>
<td>Isaiah 10:5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seed of the Serpent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Son of the Morning</td>
<td>Isaiah 14:12</td>
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<td>Spoiler, Destroyer</td>
<td>Isaiah 16:4-5</td>
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<td>Vile Person</td>
<td>Daniel 11:21</td>
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<td>Violent Man</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wicked, Wicked One</td>
<td>Psalms 9:17; 10:2, 4; Isaiah 11:4; Jeremiah 30:14, 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Willful King</td>
<td>Daniel 11:36</td>
</tr>
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### 13 Titles in the New Testament for "the antichrist"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angel of the Bottomless Pit</td>
<td>Revelation 9:11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Antichrist, (Pseudo-Christ)</td>
<td>1 John 2:18, 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>False Prophet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father of the Lie</td>
<td>John 8:44; 2 Thessalonians 2:11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawless One</td>
<td>2 Thessalonians 2:8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Man of Sin</td>
<td>2 Thessalonians 2:3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One That Comes in His Own Name</td>
<td>John 5:43</td>
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<td>Prince of Darkness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son of Perdition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Star</td>
<td>Revelation 8:10; 9:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclean Spirit</td>
<td>Matthew 12:43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vine of the Earth</td>
<td>Revelation 14:18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 8: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:18

I. "we are bound to give thanks to God always for you": 2 Thessalonians 2:13
   A. "bound" = to owe, be in debt for, be obligated
      1. same word as in 2 Thessalonians 1:3
   B. simply put, he's thankful because they're saved
   C. we're obligated to thank God
      1. prayer and thanksgiving are not options
      2. not just when we feel like it or think of it
      3. we should always be thankful for each other!

II. "beloved by the Lord": 2 Thessalonians 2:13
   A. Jesus loves us
      1. "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.": Romans 8:37
      2. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.": Galatians 2:20
      3. "And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.": Ephesians 5:2
      4. "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her": Ephesians 5:25
   B. God the Father loves us
      1. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.": John 3:16
      2. "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us… made us alive together with Christ": Ephesians 2:4-5
      3. "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace…": 2 Thessalonians 2:16
   C. the Holy Spirit loves us
      1. we can't grieve anyone who doesn't love us
         a. "But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit…": Isaiah 63:10
         b. "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.": Ephesians 4:30
      2. the Holy Spirit is a person just as much as God the Father and Jesus Christ
         a. not just some sort of invisible force

III. "God… chose": 2 Thessalonians 2:13
   A. God is the subject of this statement
      1. it's all His work
   B. same word for "chosen" used by the Septuagint (LXX) in Deuteronomy 7:7; 10:15; 26:18
   C. "from the beginning"
      1. "…He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world": Ephesians 1:4
      2. "…from the beginning of the ages": Ephesians 3:9
      3. "…for whom He foreknew…": Romans 8:28-30
      4. "…the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory": 1 Corinthians 2:7
      5. "…according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began": 2 Timothy 1:9
      6. "…hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began": Titus 1:2
      7. everything was done by the foreknowledge of God: Acts 2:23
         a. everything was in control
         b. everything went according to plan
         c. God wasn't surprised or caught off-guard
         d. "…the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world": Revelation 13:8

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IV. "salvation through sanctification... belief": 2 Thessalonians 2:13
   A. "sanctification by the Spirit" is His part
      1. sanctification was mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23
      2. only through God's power can we be separated from sin to holiness
      3. John 16:7-11
   B. "belief in the truth" is our part
      1. not belief in just anything
      2. must be the one and only truth
      3. not sincerity or zealous works
      4. compared to those who "did not believe the truth" in 2 Thessalonians 2:12
         a. "did not believe the truth" = condemnation (2 Thessalonians 2:12)
         b. "belief in the truth" = salvation (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

V. "He called you by our gospel": 2 Thessalonians 2:14
   A. the truth of the "gospel" is the only way to salvation
      1. "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?": Romans 10:14
      2. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.": Romans 10:17
      3. "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!": Romans 10:15; Isaiah 52:7; Nahum 1:15
   B. Paul was so certain that what he was preaching was the exact gospel that he called it "my gospel"
      1. "God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel": Romans 2:16
      2. "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ": Romans 16:25
      3. "For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance": 1 Thessalonians 1:5

VI. "for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ": 2 Thessalonians 2:14
   A. not judgment or deception or condemnation
   B. we're looking forward to His glory, not our own!
   C. "that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory": 1 Thessalonians 2:12
   D. Jesus said to His Father, "I have given them the glory which You have given Me": John 17:22
   E. "that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints": Ephesians 1:18

VII. "stand fast and hold": 2 Thessalonians 2:15
   A. "stand fast" = to be stationary; to stand firm; to persevere, to persist
   B. "hold" = to use strength to seize or retain; to be the master of
   C. traditions: 2 Thessalonians 2:15
      1. "traditions" = that which is delivered, the substance of a teaching; ordinances, precepts, teachings
      2. three traditions spoken of in the New Testament
         a. "of the elders"
            (i) Matthew 15:2-6
            (ii) Mark 7:3-13
            (iii) Galatians 1:14
            (iv) "rabbinical" or "oral"
            (v) harmful
         b. "of men"
            (i) Colossians 2:8
            (ii) of human origin
         c. Scriptural or God-given
            (i) 1 Corinthians 11:2
            (ii) 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6
   D. "our epistle" implies that there was "someone else's epistle"?
      1. implies a forgery?
VIII. Closing Prayer: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
   A. continues to demonstrate his life of prayer
   B. gives God the credit for everything
   C. to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
      1. but not to the Holy Spirit
         a. it's demonstrated to us that we're not to pray to the Holy Spirit
            (i) Paul's prayers
               - Romans 1:8-9; 8:15
               - Colossians 1:3
               - 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
               - 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; 3:5
            (ii) David's prayer
               - Psalm 51:11-12
            (iii) Jesus' demonstration of prayer
         b. "praying… in the Spirit": Ephesians 6:18; Jude 1:20
         c. the Holy Spirit helps us to pray to Jesus and the Father
            (i) "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26
               - "intercession" = to be present for the purpose of aiding, such as an advocate; hence, to intercede, aid, or assist (this particular word occurs no where else in the New Testament)
               - the Holy Spirit greatly assists or aids us; not by praying for us, but in our prayers and infirmities
   D. three things God has done
      1. loved us
      2. given us everlasting consolation
      3. given us good hope
   E. two things Paul is praying for
      1. comfort your hearts
      2. establish you
         a. just as in 1 Thessalonians 3:2, 13
         b. "establish" = to turn resolutely in a certain direction; to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix; to strengthen, make firm; to render constant, confirm one's mind
         c. in word
            (i) in sound doctrine and understanding
            (ii) "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15
         d. in work
            (i) "But become doers of the Word, and not hearers only": James 1:22
            (ii) "My children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:18
            (iii) "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10
   IX. Paul Requests Prayer: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2
      A. the best thing we can do for someone is to pray for them
      B. he asks for prayer in some of his other letters
         1. Romans 15:30-32
         2. Ephesians 6:18-19
         3. Colossians 4:2-3
         4. 1 Thessalonians 5:25
         5. Philemon 1:22
C. three requests
   1. for the Word of God to run swiftly
      a. to spread rapidly
   2. for the Word of God to be glorified
      a. that it would accomplish the purpose for which it was sent
   3. deliverance from unreasonable and wicked men
      a. Paul faced many of those
         (i) Acts 17:5-9, 13-15; 18:12-17
      b. the Word always stirred up trouble
      c. not everyone has "the faith"
         (i) speaks specifically of the faith in the gospel
            - unconditional surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ
         (ii) not just faith in general
         (iii) the troublemakers had faith, but in the wrong things
         (iv) everyone has faith in something, but maybe not in God
            - in the world
            - in themselves
            - in their religion
D. "just as it is with you": 2 Thessalonians 3:1
   1. he's using the Thessalonians as a success story

X. Giving God The Credit: 2 Thessalonians 3:3-5
   A. the Lord is faithful
   B. the Lord will establish them
      1. Jesus prayed for Peter that his faith would not fail: Luke 22:31-32
   C. the Lord will guard and protect them from the evil one
   D. he has confidence in the Lord
   E. "may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God": 2 Thessalonians 3:5
      1. "direct" = to make straight, guide, direct; to straighten fully
      2. the Lord wants to lead us in the best paths for our lives
      3. if we let Him, He will straighten our hearts out
      4. Zacharias prophesied regarding his newborn son, John the Baptist, and the redemption to come, "To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.": Luke 1:79
      5. "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.": Proverbs 3:6
   F. "patience" = endurance, constancy, patient enduring; staying under the load
      1. same word as used in 2 Thessalonians 1:4

XI. Dealing With The Disorderly: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15
   A. some were addicted to loafing and becoming busybodies, thereby interfering with the work of others
   B. this is more severe than how he dealt with this subject in 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12; 5:14
   C. maybe the situation got worse?
   D. "we command you... in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ": 2 Thessalonians 3:6
      1. does not sound like a suggestion!
      2. by using the Lord's full name, this is very emphatic
   E. "withdraw": 2 Thessalonians 3:6
      1. will be repeated in 2 Thessalonians 3:14
      2. more severe than just "warn" of 1 Thessalonians 5:14
      3. this has to do with their behavior and walk, not doctrine
      4. "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'": 1 Corinthians 15:33
F. "brother": 2 Thessalonians 3:6
   1. they're still brothers and they're to be treated as such
      a. this will be repeated in 2 Thessalonians 3:15
   2. criticize or censure the fault or error, not the brother
      a. Christians seem to be too eager to shoot their own wounded
      b. Christians line up their firing squads in circles
      c. there are too many "heresy hunters": self-appointed experts who disrupt the body
         (i) they desperately need to understand the concepts of mercy and forgiveness!
      d. we must be careful not to assassinate a person's character
      e. those who are "accusers of the brethren" are doing Satan's work
         (i) Zechariah 3:1
         (ii) Revelation 12:10
   f. we must be very careful how we portray ourselves in front of the world
      (i) we're representing Jesus Christ with our behavior

G. Paul's example (not principle) about financial support: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9
   1. he spoke of this earlier in 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
   2. he chose not to be supported so he could not be accused of doing it for money or greed
      a. 2 Corinthians 11:9; 12:16
      b. 1 Thessalonians 2:6
      c. 1 Timothy 5:16
   3. he had a right or authority to be supported: 2 Thessalonians 3:9
      a. 1 Corinthians 9:3-14
      b. Galatians 5:4, 6
      c. 1 Timothy 5:17-18
   4. just as they were examples, so are we: 2 Thessalonians 3:9

H. they were not to support deliberate loafers: 2 Thessalonians 3:10
   1. they were not to have a false sense of charity
   2. they took care of one another, but it must not be abused

I. they're told again to get to work: 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12
   1. again it's emphatic because he's using the full name of Jesus Christ
   2. repeating what he said in 1 Thessalonians 4:11
   3. maybe they expected the imminent return of Jesus and got lazy
   4. "don't be a leech"
   5. "support yourselves"
   6. "do what is appropriate"
   7. literally "not working at all, but doing unnecessary things": 2 Thessalonians 3:11
      a. busy doing wrong or useless things
   8. "quietness" = stillness; quiet fashion; not being disruptive
      a. "the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit… is precious in the sight of God":
         1 Peter 3:4
   9. "that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing":
      1 Thessalonians 4:12

J. don't neglect the truly needy: 2 Thessalonians 3:13
   1. just because some were not supporting themselves should not ruin it for those truly in need

K. "if anyone does not obey… do not keep company with him": 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15
   1. driving them to repentance is the goal
   2. they're still our brothers, not our enemies
   3. there should never be any animosity or hostility: restoration is always the goal
XII. Closing: 2 Thessalonians 3:16-18
   A. "peace": 2 Thessalonians 3:16
      1. some (most?) religions don't seem to be at peace
         a. some don't even preach peace!
         b. 'Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.'  : John 14:27
         c. Jesus said, "I have come so that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."  : John 10:10
   B. Paul personally signed it to prove it was authentic: 2 Thessalonians 3:17
      1. he personally signed others, too
         a. "The salutation with my own hand -- Paul's."  : 1 Corinthians 16:21
         b. "This salutation is by my own hand -- Paul."  : Colossians 4:18
      2. his letters were often written for him by a secretary or amanuensis
         a. "I, Tertius, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord."  : Romans 16:22
         b. "See in what large letters I write to you with my hand."  : Galatians 6:11
            (i) this may indicate that he wrote Galatians and not his aide
   C. some manuscripts add "written from Athens", but this is a mistake due to misunderstanding
      1 Thessalonians 3:1