

NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

1 THESSALIANS – PART ONE

Lesson 35

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Background

- 2 Years to Thessalonica!
- Paul's Second Missionary Journey
 - Paul, Silas, Timothy (~ Luke)

Paul's Second Missionary Journey

Black Sea



- Introduction
- About the Map
- Overview
- Acts 15-16
- Acts 17
- Acts 18
- Conclusion



The Letter Itself

- One of Two
 - Order Issues

Order Issues

We boast about your
perseverance and
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persecutions and
trials you are
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You suffered ... the
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2 Thess. 1:4

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1 Thess. 2:14

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Thessalonian Church

- Three Weeks at Synagogue
- “Some Jews ... Large number of God-fearing Greeks ... Not a few prominent Women” Acts 17:4
- Jealous Jewish Reaction
- Dead of Night Exit
- Timothy Return

Timothy Returns

“Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love.” (1 Thess. 3:6)

Divisions

1. Thanksgiving For Thessalonians (1)
2. Paul's Interactions w/ Thessalonians (2-3)
3. Instructions for Living (4-5)

Thanksgiving (1)

- Prayer Description

“We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(1:3)

“Work Produced By Faith”

- Eph. 2:8-10 “For it is by grace you have been saved through **faith** -- and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus **to do good works** which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

“Labor Prompted By Love”

- “This is love for God: to obey his commands.” 1 John 5:3
- “If you love me, you will obey what I command.” John 14:15
- “We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

“Endurance Inspired by Hope”

- Hope = Confident Expectation
- Sustenance in WHO not what
- 1 Timothy 1:12 “I know WHOM I have believed, and am convinced that that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.”

QUESTIONS:

- Why Work?
- Why Labor?
- Why Hope?

Paul's Interactions (2 - 3)

- Echoes of Timothy's Report
- Preached and Worked
- Not “to Trick” or “Mask Greed”
- Word of God, not Men “At work in you”
- 2:17 “When we were torn away”
- Timothy Sent Back b/c Care and Concern
- Timothy's Report : GREAT!

Instructions for Living (4-5)

- Best Foot Forward First
- “We instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living.” (4:1)
- “Now we ask you ... to do this more!”

Living

- Be Sanctified -- The Goal
- Sexual Morality (Holy and Honorable - NOT Passionate Lusts)
- Let Love Grow More and More
- Live Quiet, MYOB, Work -- Be a Sermon
- As for the Dead ...

The Coming

- Dead Rise First
- Source of Encouragement and Comfort
- Thief in the Night

“Let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.” (5:8)

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Finally

- Honor Leaders
- Idle Get to Work
- Nurture Timid and Weak
- Treat Kindly and Forgive
- Church
 - Spirit Work
 - Test Everything
 - Hold onto Good, Avoid Evil

A Closing Prayer

“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(5:23)

Points For Home

1. Work From Faith
2. Labor From Love
3. Endure in Hope
4. Holiness is Not an Afterthought
5. Pray Bible Prayers