AGAPE BIBLE COLLEGE
321 North Penelope, Belton, TX 76513

FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS

Curriculum Provided by:
Harvestime International Network
http://harvestime.org
FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS
THE LEGACY BIBLE OUTLINE SERIES

© Harvestime International Institute
THE LEGACY BIBLE OUTLINE SERIES

The Legacy Bible Outline Series is a study of the Bible using the text of the Bible itself. The series outlines books of the Bible in simple format, providing commentary only as needed to enhance understanding. Text-based questions are also included for every chapter.

We suggest you create a notebook for each book of the Bible. Insert the outlines in your notebooks and add your own study notes. Each time you study a book, you can easily append the outlines to continuously expand the materials.

The Legacy Bible Outline Series is designed so you can easily personalize it. The files for the series are in MS Word format to enable you to revise, input your own notes, change page numbers, and alter the layout as needed. You can also create your own outlines for other books of the Bible using this format.

The text of the King James Version is included in The Legacy Bible Outline Series to enable you to underline and make notes in the actual text as part of your study. Unlike a Bible which will eventually wear out, you can photocopy worn pages if they need to be replaced—which means you won’t lose your notes and underlining. Be sure to read the text in other versions of the Bible also, as different translations will greatly enhance your study.

You can print copies of the outlines for your students or—a more cost-effective method—copy the files to a CD ROM and let each student print out their own outlines. If you want students to have only the study questions and not the outlines, then copy the questions to a separate file and print them out for distribution.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line…
(Isaiah 28:10, KJV)

...His word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones!...
(Jeremiah 20:9, NLT)
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction To The Book Of First Thessalonians</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline Of The Book Of First Thessalonians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Thessalonians 1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Thessalonians 2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Thessalonians 3</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Thessalonians 4</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Thessalonians 5</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction To The Book Of Second Thessalonians</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline Of The Book Of Second Thessalonians</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Thessalonians 1</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Thessalonians 2</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Thessalonians 3</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Studies</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF FIRST THESSALONIANS

AUTHOR:  Paul.

TO WHOM:  Believers at Thessalonica, but as with all of the epistles it is also for believers of all times. For background on the church at Thessalonica, see Acts 17.

PURPOSE:  Paul commends believers for their positive testimony, exhorts them in behalf of the faith, corrects false doctrine, answers false charges against his ministry, and confirms the future return of the Lord.

KEY VERSES:  For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

LIFE AND MINISTRY PRINCIPLE:  The spiritual walk and work of true believers should be worthy of the Gospel.

MAIN CHARACTERS:  Paul, Silvanus, Timotheus.

A BRIEF OUTLINE:

QUESTIONS ON THE INTRODUCTION:
1.  Who wrote the book?
2.  To whom is the book written?
3.  What are the purposes of the book?
4.  What are the key verses?
5.  What is the life and ministry principle of this book?
6.  Who are the main characters?
OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF FIRST THESSALONIANS

1 Thessalonians 1

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
2 We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;
3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;
4 Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God.
5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.
6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:
7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.
8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.
9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;
10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.
Outline 1:

I. Introduction. (1)
   A. From:
      1. Paul.
      2. Silvanus (Silas).
      3. Timotheus (Timothy).
      (Paul was not a loner in ministry. He was always accompanied by coworkers who he was training and involving in ministry. These three men founded and remained faithful to the church at Thessalonica. For more on the ministry of Silas and Timothy, see the books of Acts and 1 and 2 Timothy.)
   B. To: The church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 17 records Paul's ministry and the founding of the church in Thessalonica during his second missionary journey. Note that the church was "in God and Jesus". All true churches must be founded in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.)
   C. Grace be unto you and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Note the order: There is no peace without experiencing God's grace and knowing Jesus, the source of true peace.)

II. Prayer and praise to God for the Thessalonians. (2-4)
   A. We give thanks to God always for you all.
   B. We make mention of you in our prayers.
   C. We remember, without ceasing:
      1. Your work of faith. (Faith is not because of our works, but the work of faith comes when we act upon God's Word.)
      2. Your labor of love.
      3. Your patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of God and our Father.
      (Three important spiritual tenets are mentioned in this passage: Faith, love, and enduring hope. Your labor for God must be based on faith and rooted in love. Only with this foundation will you be able to patiently endure in hope.)
   D. Knowing, beloved brethren, your election of God.
      (Believers are often called the elect, meaning they are chosen of God.)

III. The Thessalonians received the gospel and believed. (5-6)
   A. For our gospel did not come unto you in word only. (Note the emphasis here is on the gospel. Paul did not say "we came to you". The emphasis should always be on the message, not the messenger.) Paul also came:
      1. In power (not for information or entertainment).
      2. In the Holy Ghost.
      3. In much assurance (with absolute certainty).
      4. By example: As you know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.
(Paul and his coworkers did not just preach the Gospel, they demonstrated it in power, in the Holy Ghost, with assurance, and by setting a good example. These qualities should characterize our own presentation of the Gospel. Paul and his associates could minister in power and assurance because of the change they had experienced in their own lives. You cannot share what you don’t have.)

B. You became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the Word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Ghost. (The Thessalonians became followers of Paul, Silas, and Timothy, and of the Lord because these men taught the Word. They did not minister using their own talents, eloquence, personal ideas, or charisma. Often, receiving the Word of God as the Thessalonians did, results in persecution from friends, family, religious leaders, or even society at large. Believers should endure such affliction with joy. See also James 1:2.)

IV. The Thessalonians became examples of the believers. (7-10)

A. You were examples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. (Thessalonica was an important city. Christianity, once established here, would spread east to Asia and west to Rome. The city was sometimes called the lap of the Roman Empire. Paul commends them because they are an example of the believers. Is your reputation such that you might be called an example of a true believer? What is the reputation of your church?)

B. From you sounded out the Word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith towards God is spread abroad. (What is your reputation in "every place"--in your home, business, community, church? Is the Word of faith sounding out from you to others?)

C. We do not need to speak about it, because they themselves show us what manner of entering in we had unto you:

1. How you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. (True repentance and change is evidenced by not only turning to God, but also by turning from sin. Note that they turned to God first and then from idols. They did not try to turn from idols to God. Turn to God first, then He will empower you to turn away from sin. An idol is anything that you worship or esteem in place of God.)

2. How you wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come (upon unbelievers). (Paul didn't have to convince others of the conversion of the Thessalonians. Their godly reputation and the changes evident in their lives confirmed their acceptance of the Gospel. Your actions and reputation speak louder than your words.)

(Note the pattern: Leaders should imitate Jesus and believers should imitate leaders, with the ultimate goal of becoming imitators of God.)
Study questions on chapter 1:
1. Who is sending this epistle? (1)
2. To whom is this epistle being sent? (1)
3. What two spiritual blessings are extended by Paul to the Thessalonians in verse 1?
4. For what does Paul give thanks in verses 2-4?
5. In verse 4, what term is used by Paul to describe his relationship with the Thessalonians?
6. What does “your election of God” mean? (4)
7. Review Paul’s prayer in verses 2-4. How can you use this passage in your own prayers?
8. Of whom did the Thessalonians become followers? (6)
9. How did the Thessalonians receive the Word of God? (6)
10. The triune nature of God is confirmed in verses 1-6. What do you learn about the work of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?
11. To whom were the Thessalonians examples? (7-9)
12. What does verse 9 reveal about the previous religious beliefs of the Thessalonians?
13. What confirmed that the Thessalonians had accepted the Gospel? (9-10)
14. What do you learn about Jesus in verse 10?
15. Review verses 9-10 and summarize what you learn about the Thessalonians' past, present, and future.
16. According to verse 10, from what are true believers delivered?
17. Summarize the believer's responsibilities to the saved (verse 7); the unsaved (verse 8); and God (verses 9-10).
18. Review this chapter and make a composite list of the positive qualities Paul exemplified in his ministry to the Thessalonians.
19. Review this chapter and make a composite list of the qualities that confirmed that the Thessalonians were true believers. How does your life measure up?
20. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
1 Thessalonians 2

1 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:
2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.
3 For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:
4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.
5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:
6 Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.
7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:
8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.
9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.
10 Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:
11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,
12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.
13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.
14 For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:
15 Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:
16 Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.
17 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.
18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.
19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?
20 For ye are our glory and joy.
Outline 2:

I. Paul's ministry among the Thessalonians. (1-2)
   A. For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain (useless and without lasting results).
   B. As you know, even after we had suffered before and were shamefully treated at Philippi (see Acts 16), we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention (despite persecution and difficulties).

II. Paul's manner of exhortation. (3-8)
   A. For our exhortation was not of deceit (error), nor of uncleanness (moral impurity or impure motives), nor in guile (with deceit).
   (Paul's motives for preaching were pure. What about yours? Wrong motives and methods do not yield positive and lasting results.)
   B. As we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not to please men, but God, who tries our hearts. (The minister of God is to speak the Gospel, not use the pulpit to defend himself or attack his critics. He is to minister to please God, not man.)
   C. For, as you know and as God is our witness:
      1. We did not use flattering words.
      2. We did not use a cloak of covetousness (Paul did not conceal covetousness under the guise of ministering the Gospel. Some ministers seek honor, fame, and monetary gain).
      3. We did not seek glory of men, or of you, or of others when we might have been burdensome as the apostles of Christ. (Paul could have stood on his authority as an apostle and demanded honor and support, but he did not do so.)
   D. But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherishes her children.
   (A nursing mother cares constantly for their child, consuming good food and then passing it on to the child by nursing. As believers, we are to nurse new believers on the milk of the Word: Hebrews 5:10-14.)
   E. So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because you were dear unto us. (Paul not only imparted the Word of life, he shared his very life and soul with them.)

III. Paul's example. (9-11)
   A. For you remember, brethren, our labor and travail. (Ministry is hard work, and is compared here to the travail of the birthing process. A true minister doesn't work a 9 to 5 job or a 40 hour week.)
   B. We labored night and day (at our trade) so that we would not be chargeable (indebted) unto any of you as we preached unto you the gospel of God. (There is a spiritual freedom when you are not supported by those to whom you minister.)
C. You are witnesses, and God also, as to how we behaved ourselves among you that believe:
   1. Holily (by living according to God's Word).
   2. Justly (fairly).
   3. Unblameably (without fault).
   (Sharing the Gospel involves more than just preaching and teaching. It must be demonstrated through one's life-style.)

D. You know how we exhorted, comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his children. (The Gospel is shared more effectively within the context of loving relationships. Paul did not neglect his spiritual children. As a spiritual father, Paul spent time individually with them and corrected and comforted them. Never sacrifice ministry to individuals by restricting yourself to large group ministry.)

IV. Paul's motive for ministry. (12) That you would walk worthy of God, who has called you unto His kingdom and glory. (Believers are to reflect the glory of God and the values of His kingdom and to walk worthy of this calling.)

V. The receptivity of the Thessalonians. (13-14)
   A. For this cause also we thank God without ceasing, because, when you received the Word of God which you heard of us, you did not receive it as the word of men, but as it is--the truth of the Word of God--which effectually works also in you that believe. (How do you receive the Word of God when it is presented? The Bible will only work in you effectively when you accept it as God's Word. It is not just another book to be read once and placed on the shelf. Paul uses two different words for the word "receive" here. The first means to accept formally and outwardly. The second means to welcome willingly and inwardly. You must not only hear the Word with your ears, you must receive it into your heart.)
   B. For you, brethren, became followers of the churches of God in Judaea which are in Christ Jesus. (The Thessalonians acted upon the Word of God they received and became followers of God and part of the churches in Judea.)

VI. The suffering of the Thessalonians at the hands of their countrymen. (15-16)
   The Jews:
   A. Killed the Lord Jesus.
   B. Killed their own prophets.
   C. Persecuted believers.
   D. Displeased God.
   E. Were contrary to all men. (By hindering the Gospel, they were working against the good of all mankind.)
   F. Tried to prevent Paul from speaking to the Gentiles (nations other than Israel) that they might be saved.
   G. Are filled with their sin. (To be "filled with sin" means their sin was so great that it reached the limit.)
H. Are experiencing and will experience the wrath of God upon them to the uttermost. *(Because of their sin, the wrath of God came upon them in the past, the present, and will come upon them in the future during the terrible time known as the Great Tribulation.)*

VII. The relationship between Paul and the Thessalonians. (17-20)
A. But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time--in presence but not in heart--endeavored the more abundantly to see your face with great desire.
B. Wherefore we would have come unto you--even I, Paul--once; but Satan hindered us. *(We are not told how Paul was hindered, but the important point is that Satan always wants to hinder a true work of God. Don't be surprised. Expect and prepare for it. Satan is an adversary to our worship of God, the Word of God, our work for God, and God's work in us.)*
C. For what is our hope, our joy, or our crown of rejoicing?
   1. Is it not you being found in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?
   2. For you are our glory and joy.
   *(Will there be those in the presence of the Lord because of your ministry, your example, your prayers, and your giving? This should be the focus of your hope, joy, and rejoicing. What brings you true joy?)*

Study questions on chapter 2:
1. Summarize Paul's ministry and reception in Thessalonica as recorded in verses 1-2.
2. What happened to Paul in Philippi? (2 and Acts 16)
3. How did Paul's experience at Philippi affect his ministry at Thessalonica? (1-2)
4. Based on verses 1-6, what false rumors had most likely been spread among the Thessalonians?
5. Study the references to God in verses 1-5. How can these be applied in your ministry?
6. Summarize what you learn about how Paul presented the gospel at Thessalonica. (3-11)
   - What did Paul not do in his presentation of the Gospel?
   - Who put Paul in trust of the gospel?
   - Who did Paul want to please?
   - What did Paul want to impart to them?
   - What example did Paul and his coworkers set?
   - What three-fold ministry is described in verse 11?
7. What analogies does Paul use to illustrate his relationship with the Thessalonians? (7,11,14)
8. Why did Paul choose to support himself in Thessalonica? (9) For further study see Acts 18:3; 20:34 and 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12.
9. According to verse 12, who has called us to what and of what are we to walk worthy?
10. What are some practical ways you can walk worthily? (12)
11. What was Paul thankful for in verse 13?
12. What contrast regarding the Thessalonians' reception of the Word is made in verse 13?
13. According to verse 13, what works effectively in believers?
14. According to verses 13-14, what do you learn about the response of the Thessalonians to the gospel?
15. What do you learn about the relationship between the churches and unbelieving Jews? Of what were these Jews guilty? (14-16)
16. According to verse 16, to whom was Paul wanting to preach the gospel and why?
17. What was Paul's desire and who hindered it? (17-18)
18. According to verses 19-20, what was Paul's hope, joy, and crown of rejoicing?
19. Review this chapter and make a list of Paul's positive leadership qualities.
20. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
1 Thessalonians 3

1 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;
2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:
3 That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.
4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.
5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.
6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:
7 Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:
8 For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.
9 For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;
10 Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?
11 Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.
12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:
13 To the end he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

Outline 3:
I. The purpose of Timothy's mission. (1-5)
   A. Wherefore (because of his relationship with them as described in the previous chapter) when we could no longer forbear (could no longer wait without hearing from you), we thought it good to be left at Athens alone.
   B. We sent Timothy, our brother, a minister of God, and our fellow-laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and comfort you concerning your faith. (Timothy is an example of the type of person that can help others grow in their faith. He was a believer himself, a minister of the Word, and a team player.)
      1. That no man should be moved by these afflictions because you know that we are appointed thereunto. (If you are established in God, you will not be moved from your spiritual position by affliction.)
      2. When we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer. (2 Timothy 3:12 confirms that all who live godly will suffer persecution. Believers should be taught to expect it and how to confront it. If you are
suffering, you can know that God will never forsake you: Hebrews 13:5. He is with you always: Matthew 28:20. He is with you despite your stumbling: Psalm 37:24. He is with you in the darkest times of life: Psalm 23:4. See also John 15:20; 16:33; Acts 14:22; and Romans 5:3.)

3. Now it has come to pass and you know (what we said was true).

C. For this cause, when I could no longer forbear (wait), I sent Timothy to inquire and know about your faith, lest by some means the tempter (Satan) have tempted you and our labor be in vain (without purpose).

II. Timothy's report. (6-8)
A. But now when Timothy came from you unto us:
   1. He brought good tidings of your faith and charity (love).
   2. He reported that you have good memories of us always.
   3. He said that you greatly desire to see us, as we also desire to see you.
B. Therefore, brethren, despite our affliction and distress, we were comforted over you by your faith.
C. For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. (Ephesians 6:11-18 details how the spiritual armor of the Lord will enable you to stand fast in the Lord.)

III. Paul's prayer for the believers. (9-13)
A. For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we rejoice for your sakes before our God?
B. Night and day we are praying exceedingly that we might see your face and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith. (Paul prayed continuously, regularly, and passionately for the new believers. There is nothing lacking in saving faith. This reference is to doctrinal and/or conduct deficiencies in their faith.)
C. Now may God Himself, our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ:
   1. Direct our way unto you.
   2. Make you to increase and abound in love one toward another (believers) and toward all men (unbelievers), even as we do toward you.
   3. To the end (for the purpose) that He may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. (The purpose of Paul's comfort, exhortation, and prayers was that believers would be established and unblameable in holiness before the Lord, completely prepared for His coming. Note that love is vital to this process. One cannot remain without blame and live a holy life if they harbor anger, unforgiveness, and hatred.)
Study questions on chapter 3:
1. For what purposes did Paul send Timothy to the Thessalonians? (1-3,5)
2. Where did Paul remain when Timothy went to Thessalonica? (1)
3. How is Timothy described in verse 2?
4. To what are believers appointed? (3)
5. What had Paul warned the Thessalonians about which had indeed happened? (4)
6. What concern did Paul express in verse 5?
7. How is the devil described in verse 5?
8. What was Timothy's report to Paul regarding the believers at Thessalonica? (6)
9. What comforted Paul and why did he need comfort? (7)
10. Summarize what Paul says regarding the Thessalonians' faith in verses 2,5,6, and 7.
11. What did Paul say regarding his life in verse 8?
12. For what was Paul rejoicing in verse 9?
13. How did Paul respond to the good report he received about the Thessalonians? (7,8,9)
14. According to verse 10, for what was Paul praying?
15. In verses 2 and 13, Paul speaks of being established in God. What does this mean?
16. What desire did Paul express in verse 11?
17. What did Paul ask the Lord to do for the Thessalonians in verses 12-13 and for what purpose?
18. What do you learn about the Lord Jesus in the final phrase of verse 13?
19. Study more about the purposes of suffering:
   - Personally: James 1:2-4.
   - Relationally: 2 Corinthians 12:7
   - Ultimately: 1 Peter 4:16
20. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
1 Thessalonians 4

1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.
2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.
3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:
4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;
5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:
6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.
7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.
9 But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.
10 And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;
11 And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;
12 That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.
13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep,
14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.
15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.
16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.
Outline 4:

I. An exhortation to sanctification. (1-8)
   A. Furthermore then we beseech *(urgently appeal to you)* you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as you have received of us how you ought to walk and to please God, so you would abound more and more. *(Never be satisfied with your spiritual progress. Always desire more and more.)*
   
   B. For you know what commandments we gave you by the *(authority of the)* Lord Jesus. *(Their teaching was from God and based upon His authority. It was not their own ideas or traditions.)*
   
   C. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that you should abstain from fornication. *(Sanctification is a life-long process which begins at salvation and is concluded when you enter into the presence of the Lord. Sanctification is separation from evil unto holiness and being set apart for the Lord. Part of this sanctification is sexual purity. Note that Paul says to abstain from fornication which is sex outside of marriage including adultery, pre-marital sex, and every kind of sexual deviation.)*
      1. That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel *(your body)* in sanctification and honor.
      2. Not in the lust of concupiscence *(the passion of lust)*, even as the Gentiles *(the nations)* which do not know God.
   
   D. No man should go beyond and defraud his brother in this or any matter because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. *(God will eventually judge this and all other sinful behavior.)*
   
   E. For God has not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
   
   F. He that despises does not despise man, but God, who has also given unto us His Holy Spirit. *(When you reject this admonition and other standards of holiness in God's Word, you are actually rejecting God.)*

II. An exhortation regarding relationships. (9-12)
   A. But as touching brotherly love, you do not need for me to write unto you: For you yourselves are taught of God to love one another. *(The real test of spirituality is love. See 1 John 2:8-11. We are to love others as brothers and sisters.)*
   
   B. And indeed you display your love toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia.
   
   C. But we beseech you, brethren, that you increase *(excel in this)* more and more. *(Despite the fact that the love of the Thessalonians was well-known in Macedonia, Paul admonished them to increase more and more in this, as so should we. Love that does not continue to increase grows stagnant.)*
   
   D. Study *(make it your goal and aspire)* to be quiet *(live a life at peace and at rest)*, to do your own business, and to work with your own hands as we commanded you:
1. That you may walk honestly toward them that are without.
   *(Believers should command respect from those outside of the church.)*
2. That you may have lack of nothing.
   *(If you want to lack nothing, follow the guidelines in this passage: Increase and abound in love, study to be quiet, do your own business, and work with your own hands. You study something in order to learn it, so this means that quietness does not come naturally. We must learn it. Dr. J. Vernon McGee said, ’We have all kinds of schools today to teach people to speak. Every seminary has a public speaking class. Perhaps they should also have a class that would teach their students to be quiet.’ If you do your own business, you won’t have time to become a busy-body. People who are busy-bodies are usually idle, critical, gossips, and fail to look after their own affairs and see their own failures.)*

III. An exhortation regarding the promised return of Christ. (13-18)
   A. But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep *(in death)*, so that you do not sorrow as others which have no hope.
      *(You may sorrow because of your loss, but you should not sorrow excessively as the world which has no hope. You will see your loved ones again. Jesus bore your sorrow, so why should you bear it? See Isaiah 53:4.)*
   B. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. *(This is an if/then premise. If we believe Jesus died and rose again, then we should believe the remainder of this passage. The ”sleep” here refers to death, not soul sleep as some denominations teach.)*
   C. For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent *(precede)* them which are asleep. *(You can be assured of this, because it is the Word of the Lord. You do not have to depend upon speculation or the experiences of others.)*
   D. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.
      *(The shout of the Lord signals the rapture of the church; the voice of the archangel is for the gathering of Israel because Michael is the only archangel mentioned in the Bible and he is the guardian of Israel; and the trumpet of God announces judgment of the nations.)*
   E. The dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.
   F. So shall we ever be with the Lord. *(Forever and always.)*
   G. Wherefore comfort one another with these words. *(Use these words to comfort other believers. Prophecy is not given just to satisfy our curiosity or to debate over details, but to give us comfort.)*

*(For a detailed study of the rapture, see the commentary on Revelation 4 in the Harvestime Legacy Bible Outline series.)*
Study questions on chapter 4:
1. What do the words "beseech" and "exhort" in verse 1 suggest regarding the emphasis Paul placed on what he was teaching?
2. What had Paul communicated to the Thessalonians and upon whose authority? (1-2)
3. According to verse 3, what is the will of God for every believer?
4. What is fornication? (See outline comments on verse 3)
5. What should each of us know and do regarding our vessels (our bodies)? (4-5)
6. In verse 5, what conduct of the Gentiles does Paul warn that we should avoid?
7. Against what are believers warned in verse 6?
8. According to verse 6, who is the avenger of all evil? (6)
9. To what are believers called? What should we avoid? (7)
10. When we despise and ignore commands in the Bible, who are we really rejecting? (8)
11. Of what are we taught by God? (9)
12. In what did Paul want the Thessalonians to increase? (9-10)
13. To whom had the Thessalonians extended their love? (10)
14. Make a list of the commands in verse 11-12.
15. Review verses 1-12 and examine your own life in terms of:
   - Sexual conduct.
   - Relationship with others.
   - Your work ethic.
   - Your use of time.
   - Your business relationships.
16. What principles can you live by that will assure you lack nothing? (12)
17. Review verses 9-12 and summarize how a believer is to treat fellow-believers and how they are to treat unbelievers.
   - Of what does Paul want believers to be aware?
   - What are the positive results of believing in the rapture?
   - From where will Christ return?
   - Who will accompany Christ upon His return?
   - What is the meaning of the words "sleep" and "asleep" in verses 13-14?
   - With what will Christ descend from Heaven?
   - What will happen to those who are dead in Christ?
   - What happens to believers who are living at the time of Christ's return?
   - For how long will we remain with the Lord?
   - According to verse 18, what should we use to comfort others in times of sorrow?
19. Compare these passages:

**John 14:3**
I will come again
And receive you to myself
That where I am, there you may be also

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**
The Lord shall descend from Heaven
Then we shall be caught up to meet the Lord
And so shall we ever be with the Lord

20. Compare these passages:

**Matthew 24**
They shall see Him coming
With a great voice
With a great trumpet
They shall be gathered together
In the clouds of Heaven

**1 Thessalonians 4**
The Lord shall descend from heaven
With the voice of an archangel
With the trumpet of God
They shall be caught up together
In the clouds to meet the Lord

21. For further study regarding the rapture, see the *Legacy Bible Outlines* on Daniel and Revelation. As you study, keep in mind this quote by Edmond Hiebert: "Equally devout and sincere students of Scripture will doubtless continue to hold different views on the question of the time of the rapture...But these efforts must not be allowed to lead to a preoccupation with uncertain details so that the sanctifying power of this blessed hope for daily living is lost sight of."

22. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
1 Thessalonians 5

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.
6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.
8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.
9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.
11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.
12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;
13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.
14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.
15 See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.
16 Rejoice evermore.
17 Pray without ceasing.
18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
19 Quench not the Spirit.
20 Despise not prophesyings.
21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.
23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
24 Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.
25 Brethren, pray for us.
26 Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.
27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.
28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
Outline 5:

I. An exhortation regarding the times and seasons. (1-3)
   A. But of the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I write unto you. 
      (Paul had already taught them about the prophetic times and seasons.)
   B. For you, yourselves, know perfectly that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. (The day of the Lord refers to the day of God's judgment which will arrive unexpectedly, as a thief does in the night time.)
   C. For when they shall say, "Peace and safety", then sudden destruction will come upon them, as travail upon a woman with child. (Once labor starts for a pregnant woman, there is no escape. Once God's final judgment starts, there is no escape.)
   D. They shall not escape.

II. Living as children of light. (4-8)
   A. You, brethren, are not in darkness so that that day (the day of the Lord) should overtake you as a thief. (True believers will be watching and be prepared for this. They will not be caught unawares.)
   B. You are all the children of light and the children of the day:
      1. We are not of the night, nor of darkness.
      2. Therefore let us not sleep (spiritually), as others do.
      3. But let us watch and be sober (alert and on guard).
   C. For they that sleep, sleep in the night and they that are drunk are drunk in the night. (Believers should not be under the control of anything other than the Holy Spirit: Ephesians 5:18.)
   D. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love and for an helmet, the hope of salvation (Believers are to be sober, meaning to be mentally alert and watchful. We are to be prepared as spiritual soldiers. See Ephesians 6:13-18).

III. Appointed to salvation. (9-11)
   A. For God has not appointed us to incur His wrath, but to obtain His salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. (True believers need not fear the day of the Lord because they will not experience God's wrath. They are saved from sin, wrath, and eternal punishment through Jesus Christ.)
   B. He died for us so that, whether we wake or sleep (whether we live or die), we should live together with Him.
   C. Wherefore comfort yourselves together and edify (lift up and encourage) one another, even as you do also.

IV. Relationships with those who labor among you. (12-13)
   A. We beseech you, brethren, to know them:
      1. Which labor among you.
      2. Which are over you in the Lord.
      3. Which admonish you.
   B. Esteem them very highly (beyond measure) in love for their work's sake. (Leadership is work! Show honor and respect for your spiritual leaders.)
   C. And be at peace among yourselves.

23
(When believers live at peace with each other, it makes the ministry of their leaders easier.)

V. Relationships with others. Now we exhort you: (14-15)
A. Warn them that are unruly (undisciplined and disruptive).
B. Comfort the feebleminded. (This means those who are faint-hearted, not the mentally ill. Faint-hearted people tend to give up easily.)
C. Support the weak (those who are spiritually frail in faith. Don't let them fall).
D. Be patient toward all men.
E. Do not render (return) evil for evil unto any man.
F. Always follow that which is good, both among yourselves (among other believers), and to all men (unbelievers as well).

VI. Final exhortations. (16-22)
A. Rejoice evermore.
B. Pray without ceasing. (This doesn't mean you always have to be mumbling prayers. It means to maintain an attitude of prayer and pray regularly.).
C. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (Give thanks in every circumstance--not necessarily for it, but in the midst of it and in spite of it. Jesus thanked God before He raised Lazarus from the dead. Rejoice and give God thanks before you see a change in your circumstances.)
D. Do not quench (hinder, suppress, stifle, or put out the flame of) the Holy Spirit.
E. Do not despise prophesying. (Prophecy includes the written Word of God as it is read or spoken in comfort, exhortation, instruction, and prediction. It also includes prophetic utterances under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Do not look down on, ignore, or reject the true Word of God.)
F. Prove all things. (Everything you hear--including prophesies--should be examined and proven in light of the Word of God.)
G. Hold fast that which is good (that which is true and genuine).
H. Abstain from all appearance of evil. (Do not only abstain from evil, but also from anything that would appear to be evil.)

VII. Benediction. (23-28)
A. May the very God of peace sanctify you wholly (entirely).
B. I pray God that your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (The triune nature of man is confirmed here as well as the fact that it is possible to be preserved by God and stand blameless before the Lord at His return.)
C. Faithful is He that called you, who will also do it. (God called you to salvation as well as to fulfill your spiritual destiny and He will accomplish it in you and through you. Do not try to achieve salvation or your destiny by self-effort.)
D. Brethren, pray for us. (Paul commanded that we pray for our spiritual leaders. He did not say "please" or present it as an option.)
E. Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss. (This means to greet others warmly. You don't have to do it with a kiss. This was the custom of that day and it was usually
restricted to men kissing men and women kissing women.)

F. I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren (to all true believers).

G. May the grace (spiritual blessing and favor) of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

H. Amen (so be it).

Study questions on chapter 5:
1. About what did Paul not need to write the Thessalonians? (1)
2. What do you learn about the day of the Lord in verses 1-2?
3. What analogy is used to describe the day of the Lord? (2)
4. What does the "day of the Lord" mean? (See the outline on verses 1-3)
5. Study more about the day of the Lord in Isaiah 13:6,9; Ezekiel 13:5; 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1,11,31; 3:14; Amos 5:18,20; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7, 14; Malachi 4:5; Acts 2:20; 2 Peter 3:10. In addition, the phrases "the great day" and "that day" are used in numerous passages.
6. What will people be saying right before the day of the Lord? (3)
7. What will happen when the day of the Lord arrives? (3)
8. What analogy does Paul use to illustrate what unbelievers will experience on the day of the Lord? (3)
9. Why will the day of the Lord not be a surprise to true believers? (4-5)
10. Using verses 4-8, make a chart contrasting the children of light with the children of darkness.
11. What are believers to put on? (8)
12. To what are believers appointed? To what are we not appointed and why? (9)
13. What do you learn about Jesus in verses 9-10?
14. Whether we live or die, what assurance is given in verse 10?
15. What are believers told to do in verse 11?
17. According to verse 13, what should believers foster among themselves?
18. How are believers to respond to the unruly? (14)
19. How are believers to respond to the feebleminded? (14)
20. How are believers to respond to the weak? (14)
21. What are believers to show towards all men? (14)
22. How should believers respond when evil is done to them? (15)
23. List the commands given in verses 16-22.
24. Who will sanctify you and preserve you blameless until the return of Jesus? (23)
25. What do you learn about God's promises in verse 24?
26. What does Paul request in verse 25?
27. How does Paul tell believers to greet one another? (26)
28. Where was this epistle to the Thessalonians to be read? (27)
29. According to verse 28, what spiritual blessing does Paul impart to the Thessalonians?
30. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF SECOND THESSALONIANS

AUTHOR: Paul.

TO WHOM: Believers at Thessalonica, but as with all of the epistles it is also for believers of all times.

PURPOSE: To instruct believers waiting for the return of the Lord.

KEY VERSE: *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.*

(2 Thessalonians 2:3)

LIFE AND MINISTRY PRINCIPLE: The comfort, cautions, and commands of the Word will prepare you for Christ's return.

MAIN CHARACTERS: Paul, Silvanus, Timotheus.

A BRIEF OUTLINE:
II. Comfort: 1:3-1:12.
III. Cautions: 2:1-17.
V. Conclusion: 3:16-18.

QUESTIONS ON THE INTRODUCTION:
1. Who wrote the book?
2. To whom is the book written?
3. What is the purpose of the book?
4. What is the key verse?
5. What is the life and ministry principle of this book?
6. Who are the main characters?
OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF
SECOND THESSALONIANS

2 Thessalonians 1

1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
3 We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;
4 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:
5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:
6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;
7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,
8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;
10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.
11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:
12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Outline 1:

I. Introduction. (1)
   A. From: Paul, and Silvanus (Silas), and Timotheus (Timothy).
   B. To: The church of the Thessalonians.
   C. Written in (the name of) God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. Greetings and thanksgiving. (2-3)
   A. Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
   B. We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet (proper to do), because:
      1. Your faith grows exceedingly (vigorously).
      2. The charity (love) of every one of you all toward each other abounds.
         (Faith and love are related. True faith in God results in love for others.)

III. Patience in persecution. (4-10)
   A. We glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure.
      (Paul was proud of the Thessalonians. The word "faith" denotes a forward-directed and aggressive force, never passive or backward reaching. They never drew back, despite tribulation. Faith must be tested in order to be trusted.)
   B. This is a manifest token (evidence) of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the Kingdom of God, for which you also suffer.
      (Suffering is almost like an initiation rite of passage into the Kingdom.)
   C. Seeing it is a righteous (fair) thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you.
      (Those who trouble you will be troubled themselves.)
   D. And to you who are troubled (you will be granted) rest (relief) with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels:
      1. In flaming fire He will take vengeance on them that do not know God and those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. They shall be punished with:
         a. Everlasting destruction (eternal and complete ruin).
         b. Exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. (This is called the second death in the book of Revelation. God's judgment is not vindictive, but righteous.)
      2. He shall come to be glorified in His saints and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.
         (True faith will be rewarded and justified in that day.)

IV. Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians. (11-12)
    Wherefore we always pray for you:
    A. That our God would count you worthy of this calling. (Live a life worthy of your position as a true believer and child of God.)
    B. That He would fulfill in you:
       1. The good pleasure of His goodness.
       2. The work of faith with power.
C. That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Study questions on chapter 1:
1. Who is sending this epistle? (1)
2. To whom is this epistle written? (1)
3. What two spiritual blessings are extended to the Thessalonians? (2)
4. For what was writer thankful? (3)
5. What was the attitude exhibited by the Thessalonians despite their troubles? (4)
6. What do you learn about suffering in verses 4-5?
7. What will happen to those who persecute believers? (6-8)
8. What event is described by Paul in verses 7-10?
   -Who shall be revealed?
   -Who will be with Him?
   -What will happen to those who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel?
   -What will be the response of true believers when Jesus comes?
   -Upon whom will vengeance be taken?
   -How will unbelievers be punished?
9. Review verses 5-10 again and summarize what this passage says to the afflicted and what it says to those who afflict
10. Summarize Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians. (11-12)
11. What does it mean to walk worthy of your calling in God? (11)
12. List some practical ways that the name of the Lord can be glorified in your life. (12)
13. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
2 Thessalonians 2

1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him,
2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.
3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.
5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?
6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.
7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.
8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:
9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,
10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:
12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:
14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.
16 Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,
17 Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.
Outline 2:
I. Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him (at the time of the rapture): (1-2)
   A. Do not be soon shaken (disturbed or confused) in mind (by doctrinal errors).
   B. Do not be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us.  
      (Paul warned them not to believe any spirit, word, or letter that claimed to be from them saying that the Lord has already returned.)

(The coming of the Lord refers to the end-time when Jesus returns for believers, the Antichrist seizes control the world, the great tribulation results, the final end-time battles are fought, and judgment is executed upon the wicked.  For detailed discussions, see the Legacy Bible Outlines on Revelation and Daniel.  Erroneous teaching had occurred in Thessalonica claiming that Jesus had returned for believers and those who remained were already in the midst of the great tribulation.  Due to the persecution they were experiencing, it was probably easy for them to believe this.  Paul is assuring them that this is not so.)

II. The mystery of iniquity. (3-12)
   (The following reference to "that day" is to the rapture)
   A. Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come until:
      1. There is a great falling (removing) away first.  
         (This has a two-fold meaning: One is that there will be apostasy in the church with many falling away from the faith.  The other meaning is the catching away of true believers by the Lord at the time of the rapture.)
      2. The man of sin, the son of perdition (doom and destruction), will be revealed.
         a. This man will oppose God.
         b. He will exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped.
         c. He will sit as god in the temple of God.
         d. He will show (proclaim) himself to be god (by miraculous acts).  
         (This passage refers to the Antichrist who will rule the world in the end-times.  For detailed discussions, see the Legacy Bible Outlines on Revelation and Daniel.  The title "Antichrist" is not used here, but it is used in 1 John 2:18,22; 4:3; and 2 John 7.  This man is not just another evil world ruler.  He is part of the end-time trinity of Satan.)
   B. You will remember that when I was yet with you, I told you these things:
      1. And now you know what withholds that he might be revealed in his time.  
         (The Antichrist will be revealed in God's perfect timing.  He will be living long before he is revealed to the world.)
      2. For the mystery of iniquity already works.  (The antichrist spirit is already active in the world.  Why people continue to act in sinful ways knowing what the Word says about it is indeed a great mystery!)
      3. Only he who now lets will let, until he be taken out of the way.
(God is presently restraining wickedness. When this restraint ceases, evil will be manifested without limits. Think of all the evil in the world now. What will it be like when evil is no longer restrained?)

C. Then (after the events previously detailed in this passage):
1. That wicked one shall be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming (the splendor of it, like a laser beam that can target and destroy).
2. Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power, signs, lying wonders, and all deception of unrighteousness in them that perish. (The Antichrist will do many miracles that will deceive many.)

D. People will believe him because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved.
1. For this cause God, shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie. (What is the lie they will believe? Doctrinal lies that are not based in the truth of God's Word.)
2. That they all might be damned:
   a. Who did not believe the truth (of God's Word).
   b. Who had pleasure in unrighteousness.
   (It is not God's will that anyone perish: 2 Peter 3:9. But God will let the world be deceived because they did not receive the truth so that they could be saved. These people are not helpless victims. They took pleasure in sin and are deceived because they chose to reject the truth of the gospel.)

III. Exhortations to the chosen. (13-15)
A. We are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord:
1. Because from the beginning God has chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.
2. Whereunto He called you, by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (The past, present, and future dimensions of salvation are all reflected in this passage: Believers are chosen from the beginning, called in the present, and completed in the future. We have been, are being, and shall be saved.)
B. Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you have been taught, whether by word of mouth or by our written epistle. (Believers are to stand fast and not be moved from the traditions of God's Word. They are to hold on to them firmly.)

IV. Benediction. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, which has loved us, and has given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace: (16-17)
A. Comfort your hearts.
B. Establish you in every good word and work. (If you are established in the Word, your work will be good.)
Study questions on chapter 2:
1. What deception is Paul addressing in verses 1-2?
2. Who is Paul describing in verses 3-4?
3. What will happen prior to the revelation of the man of sin? (3)
4. What will the man of sin do in the end-times? (3-4)
5. What had Paul told the Thessalonians that they had apparently forgotten? (2-5)
6. When will the man of sin be revealed? (6)
7. What is already at work in the world? (7)
8. What is the mystery of iniquity? (7)
9. What will restrain the man of sin until the proper time and what happens when this ceases? (7)
10. Who will destroy the man of sin and when? (8)
11. What additional things do you learn about the man of sin in verses 9-10?
12. Why will people believe the man of sin? (9-10)
13. What will God send to those who perish? (10-11)
14. Why will God send delusions? (11-12)
15. What will happen to those who refuse the truth? (12)
16. For what did Paul give thanks in verse 13?
17. According to verses 13-14, how do we receive salvation?
18. How are believers called to the Lord and for what purpose? (14)
19. What are the admonitions in verse 15?
20. What are two methods Paul used to teach the Thessalonians? (15b)
21. Using verses 16-17, list what God and Jesus have done and want to do for believers.
22. Note the things that will occur before Christ's final return:
   - A falling away of believers: Verse 3
     (Meaning the falling from the faith by some believers and the catching away of true believers in the rapture.)
   - Man of sin (the Antichrist) revealed: Verse 3
   - Restraint of evil removed from the world: Verse 6
   - Strong delusions: Verse 11
23. Study more about the man of sin discussed in this chapter.
   - His names: Daniel 7:8; 8:9; 9:26; 11:36; 1 John 2:18; Revelation 13:1-10.
   - John wrote about many spirits of the antichrist in the world, but singled out one Antichrist in the end-times. He is a real person, an emissary of Satan, the personification of evil.
24. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
2 Thessalonians 3

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:
2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.
3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.
4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.
5 And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.
6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.
7 For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;
8 Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:
9 Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.
10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.
11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.
12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.
13 But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.
14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.
15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.
16 Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.
17 The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.
18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.
Outline 3:

I. An appeal for prayer. Finally, brethren, pray for us. (1-2)
   A. That the Word of the Lord may have free course (not be hindered) and be glorified (effective by their lives being changed), even as it is with you.
   B. That we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: For all men do not have faith.

II. Words of encouragement. (3-5)
   A. The Lord is faithful, who shall establish (secure and stabilize) you and keep (guard) you from evil (from evil behavior and the evil one himself).
   B. We have confidence in the Lord touching (concerning) you, that you both do and will do the things which we command you.
   C. And may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patient waiting for Christ’s return.

III. Final commands. Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: (6-13)
   A. Withdraw yourselves from every brother (fellow believer) that walks disorderly and not after the tradition which he received of us. (Paul is speaking of the tradition of the Word, not the traditions of man. Examples of this kind of discipline are given in Romans 16:17 and 1 Corinthians 5:11.)
   B. You know how you ought to follow us (our example), for we did not behave ourselves disorderly among you. (Paul and his coworkers set a positive Christian example.)
   C. We did not eat any man’s bread for nothing, but we labored and travailed night and day so that we might not be chargeable to any of you. (They did not want to impose on the Thessalonians for support.)
      1. Not because we do not have the power or authority to do this, but to make ourselves an example unto you to follow us. (Paul and his ministry team worked to earn their own support, setting a good work ethic for new believers. This does not mean that we are not to support full-time ministers. This was something Paul chose to do.)
      2. For when we were with you, we commanded you that if any would not work, neither should he eat. (The words "would not work" indicate a willful decision. This is not addressing those who legitimately cannot work because of mental or physical disabilities.)
   D. For we hear that there are some which walk disorderly among you.
      1. They do not work at all.
      2. They are busybodies. (They are idle and because they are they keep busy intruding into other peoples’ affairs).
      3. To those who are conducting themselves this way, we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ: (Paul was a spokesman for the Lord. Are you?)
a. Work with quietness *(without complaining).*
b. Eat your own bread. *(Earn your own support and don’t sponge off of others. See also the comments on 1 Thessalonians 4:11.)*

E. Do not be weary in well-doing.

IV. The proper response to those who reject the Word. (14-15)
A. If any man does not obey our word by this epistle, note that man and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.
B. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.
   *(Do not make such a person your close friend, but don’t treat him like an enemy either. Admonish him as you would your own sibling. Christian discipline should always be done with the goal of restoration to God and fellowship with believers.)*

V. Benediction. (16-18)
A. Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means.
   *(God will give you peace in all times, in all ways, and in all circumstances. There is no peace without the God of peace and the Prince of peace, Jesus Christ.)*
B. May the Lord be with you all.
C. The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is the token in every epistle:
   So I write. *(Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, dictated this book and then personally signed it to authenticate its content.)*
D. May the grace *(spiritual favor)* of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
E. Amen. *(So be it.)*

Study questions on chapter 3:
1. For what did Paul ask the Thessalonians to pray? (1-2)
2. What assurance does Paul give believers in verse 3?
3. What confidence did Paul express in the Thessalonians? (4)
4. To what does Paul ask the Lord to direct their hearts? (5)
5. What does "waiting for Christ" mean? (5)
6. How are believers to respond to those who walk disorderly? (6)
7. What do you learn about Paul and his coworkers in verses 7-9? What did they do and why did they do it?
8. What is the command in verse 10?
9. According to verses 11-12, what problem had arisen among the Thessalonians and how did Paul respond to it?
10. What admonition is given in verse 13?
11. How were believers to respond to those who would not obey God's Word? (14-15)
12. According to verse 16, Who is the source of peace?
13. Who signed and authenticated this epistle? (17)
14. What does Paul extend to believers in verse 18?
15. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?
1. The church at Thessalonica was founded by Paul during his second missionary journey. See Acts 17:1-10. He ministered in the synagogue for three Sabbaths. Even though his ministry there was not long, it was powerful enough to leave behind a thriving church. It does not require years to establish a church when it is done in the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 1:5). Using Acts 17, answer the following questions:
   - Where did Paul minister, as was his custom?
   - How long did Paul's ministry in Thessalonica last?
   - What does the phrase "reason with them" reveal about his method of communicating the gospel in this city?
   - Summarize the basic truths Paul tried to establish in his presentation of the Gospel.
   - What were the immediate results of Paul's ministry?
   - What problems arose in Thessalonica?
   - Why did Paul and Silas leave the city?


3. No other book in the Bible gives as much attention to the rapture of the Church as does the book of First Thessalonians. The event is referred to in each of its five chapters. See 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-11,23.

4. Review both epistles to the Thessalonians and make a composite list of the positive qualities a godly leader should exhibit.

5. Review both epistles to the Thessalonians and make a composite list of all the commands given to believers.

6. Discover how God wants you to be established in Him: 1 Thessalonians 3:13 and 2 Thessalonians 2:17 and 3:3. See also Romans 1:11; 16:25; James 5:8; and 1 Peter 5:10; 2 Peter 1:12.

7. Make a chart summarizing what Thessalonians teaches about the gospel:
   1 Thessalonians 1:5; 2:2,4,8-9; 3:2 and 2 Thessalonians 1:8 and 2:14.

8. First Thessalonians 4:13-18 speaks of events that will occur at the return of the Lord at the time of the rapture. Some denominations believe in "soul sleep", that a person simply sleeps in the grave waiting for the Lord's return. But Paul said, "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." Also, note that at the transfiguration of Christ, which involved Moses and Elijah, these men did not appear as angels with wings but they
appeared in the form of human beings, yet in a glorified body. Moses was still Moses, and Elijah was still Elijah. They didn't reincarnate to some other form. Their appearance confirms that there is life after death. It also reveals that they were aware of what was happening on earth, as they spoke of Christ's forthcoming death. If they had just awakened from sleep, they would not have known what was happening on earth. If one believes in soul sleep after death, then these men were both walking and talking in their sleep!