

## ROAD TO EMMAUS

## The Harmony of the Old and New Testament 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> THESSALONIANS

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks;  
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." -- 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16-18

### Introduction to First and Second Thessalonians:

We have combined these two short epistles into one course. We will look at the Old Testament themes we find in them as well as prayers, promises and examples of Hebrew poetry.

#### Lesson      Topic

**Lesson 1 – Our Christian Example** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1 | Judges 11:29-40 )

**Lesson 2 – Poetry** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2)

**Lesson 3 – Example of Prayer** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 3)

**Lesson 4 – Love & Holiness** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4, Jeremiah 31)

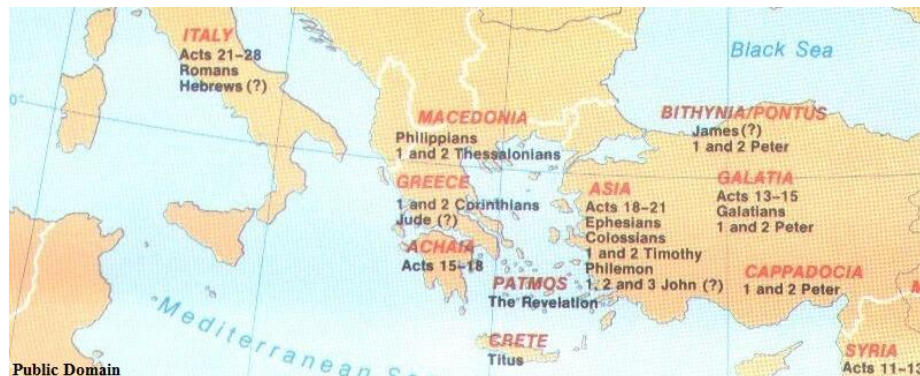
**Lesson 5 – Obtaining Holiness** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5, Exodus 31:12-13)

**Lesson 6 – The Day of the Lord Promised** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1, Joel 2)

**Lesson 7 – Evil Men as Tools of God** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2, Genesis 50:20, Exodus 14:4)

**Lesson 8 – Patience in Doing Well** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3. Is 40:31, Ps 37:7, Ps 4:5)

**Lesson 9 – Praying the Scripture and Conclusion** (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians)



### Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst)
3. Pray (The idea is to leave our troubles with God so we can give Him our full attention.)
4. Read the lesson's scripture aloud from the Bible (or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is Scripture based.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak .**
7. Discuss your Think & Pray answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is good to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission first.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting. If you take less time, extra questions are usually provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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**Lesson 1 – Our Christian Example** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[1A] 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4 How often did Paul thank God for the Thessalonians \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8 What did they become to those in Macedonia and Achaia? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 What did they turn away from? \_\_\_\_\_

[1D] Deuteronomy 28:25 If they did not follow God's will what kind of example will he make of them?  
\_\_\_\_\_

[1E] 1 Corinthians 10:6-11 Why did the things in the Old Testament happen? \_\_\_\_\_

[1F] James 5:9-11 Who is our an example of suffering and patience? \_\_\_\_\_

[1G] John 13:15 Who does Jesus expect us to imitate? \_\_\_\_\_

[1H] 1 Peter 2:21 Who does Peter expect us to imitate? \_\_\_\_\_

[1I] 1 Corinthians 11:1 Who does Paul expect us to imitate? \_\_\_\_\_

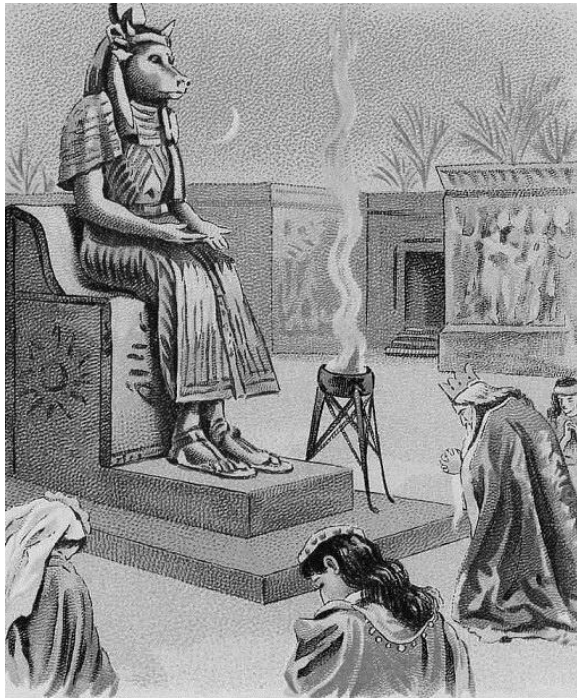
[1J] 1 Corinthians 8:13 What would Paul give up for the sake of his Christian brothers? \_\_\_\_\_

[1K] Rom 14:21 Are we responsible for other believers? \_\_\_\_\_

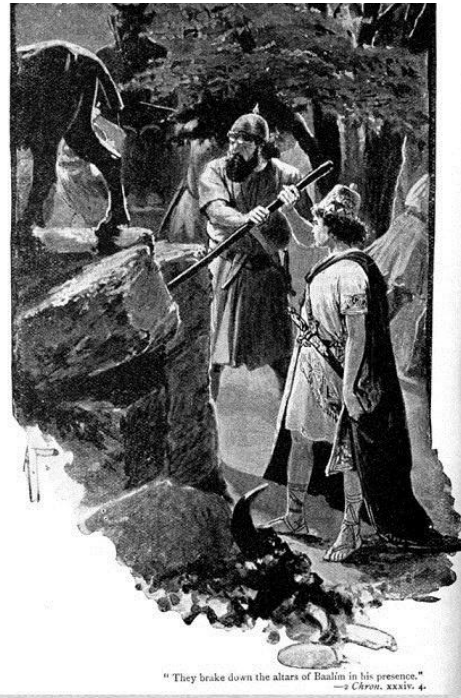
[1L] 1 Timothy 4:12 Timothy was to be an example of what? \_\_\_\_\_

[1M] 2 Corinthians 6:3 Why are we to avoid giving offense? \_\_\_\_\_

[1N] 2 Chronicles 17:3 Whose example did Jehoshaphat follow? \_\_\_\_\_



Bad Example - They worshiped idols



Good Example - They broke down the altars of Baalim

[1N] Judges 11:29-40 Is this a good example or a bad example? How do you know?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 1 – Our Christian Example** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1)

- [1A] 1 Thessalonians 1:1-4 How often did Paul thank God for the Thessalonians Every time he prayed
- [1B] 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8 What did they become to those in Macedonia and Achaia? Examples
- [1C] 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 What did they turn away from? Idols
- [1D] Deuteronomy 28:25 If they did not follow His will what kind of example will he make of them?  
Example of terror to all the kingdoms of the earth.
- [1E] 1 Corinthians 10:6-11 Why did the things in the Old Testament happen? As examples for us
- [1F] James 5:9-11 Who is our an example of suffering and patience? Old Testament Prophets
- [1G] John 13:15 Who does Jesus expect us to imitate? Jesus
- [1H] 1 Peter 2:21 Who does Peter expect us to imitate? Jesus
- [1I] 1 Corinthians 11:1 Who does Paul expect us to imitate? Paul, but ultimately Jesus Christ
- [1J] 1 Corinthians 8:13 What would Paul give up for the sake of his Christian brothers? Eating meat
- [1K] Rom 14:21 Are we responsible for other believers? No, but we are responsible for our influence
- [1L] 1 Timothy 4:12 Timothy was to be an example of what? Those who believe
- [1M] 2 Corinthians 6:3 Why are we to avoid giving offense? The credibility of the ministry
- [1N] 2 Chronicles 17:3 Whose example did Jehoshaphat follow? David's

[1N] Judges 11:29-40 Is this a good example or a bad example? How do you know?  
In my opinion it is some of both. I know by comparing it with other scriptures.  
Numbers 30:2 Instructs us to keep our vows. Jephthah kept his vow.  
Matthew 5:33-37 Jesus says to make no vows. It was a stupid thing for Jephthah to promise.  
There remains a puzzle though. If it Jephthah was a bad example, what does it mean by "Now the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah ..." in Judges 11:29? We'll re-visit this issue in Lesson 7 of this course.

**For further thought:**

- (1o) What idols from your old life have you left behind as a good example for others? And/or what new behaviors have you begun to give glory to Jesus Christ?
- (1p) In 1 Thess. 1:1-3 who is praying for what, if anything, and what does it teach us about prayer?
- (1q) In 1 Thess 1:4 what, if anything, is promised to who under what conditions? Is this promise to us?
- (1r) In 1 Thess 1:10 what, if anything, is promised to who under what conditions? Is this promise to us?
- (1s) Explain 2 Corinthians 11:29
- (1t) Genesis 4:9 What is your answer to Cain's question?
- (1u) What poetical passages or literary devices do you find in 1 Thessalonians chapter 1?
- (1v) If someone asked you what 1 Thessalonians chapter 1 was about what would you tell them?
- (1w) What did you learn about 1 Thessalonians chapter 1 that you would like to remember?
- (1x) What verse or passage from 1 Thessalonians chapter 1 would be best to memorize? Why?

Road to Emmaus - The Harmony of the Old and New Testament – 1st & 2nd Thessalonians

**Lesson 2 – Poetry** 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2 I think there is a lot of very pretty Hebrew style poetry in this chapter. These are some of the things I found. (I have more listed on the back)

Parallels & Lists of similar things

- v. 10 "devoutly", "uprightly", "blamelessly"
- v. 7 & v. 11 mother and father

Contrasts or opposites

- v. 9 "night" vs. "day"
- v. 13 "word of God" vs "word of men"

Figures of Speech and Vivid Pictures

- v. 7 "gentle" = "nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children"

Term Repetition What words or ideas appear most often? What does that tell us?

Try your hand at finding the poetical beauty in the chapter similar to the above.

Your Discoveries from Chapter 2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My answers are on the next page.

(If you have no idea what I'm talking about or you just want to learn more about this kind of analysis see [www.lovebiblestudy.com/TOP\\_300/TOP\\_301\\_Bible\\_Poetry.pdf](http://www.lovebiblestudy.com/TOP_300/TOP_301_Bible_Poetry.pdf))



**Lesson 2 – Poetry 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2**

Parallels & Lists of similar things

- 1 & 3 "For you yourselves know" = "as you know"
- 2 "Suffered" = "mistreated"
- 3 & 5 "error", "impurity", "deceit", "greed"
- 4-6 "not as pleasing men" = "never ... with flattering speech" = "nor ... seek glory from men"
- 7 & 8 "gentle among you" = "fond an affection for you" = "very dear to us"
- 9 "labor and hardship" = "working night and day"
- 10 "devoutly", "uprightly", "blamelessly"
- 11 "exhorting", "encouraging", "imploring"
- 12 & 13 God who calls – word of God which you heard
- 13 received = accepted
- 14 Jews and gentiles both persecuted by their own countrymen
- 15 not pleasing to God – hostile to all men
- 16 men hindering & 18 Satan hindering
- 17 more eager - great desire
- 19 "hope or joy or crown of exultation"
- 20 "Our glory and joy"

Contrasts or opposites

- 2 "Boldness" vs. "Opposition"
- 8 "impart to you not only the gospel of God" but also "our own lives"
- 9 "night" vs. "day"
- 13 "word of God" vs "word of men"

Figures of Speech and Vivid Pictures

- 7 "gentle" = "nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children"
- 11 "exhorting", "encouraging", "imploring" as a *father* his own children
- 13 the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.
- 16 " fill up the measure of their sins" = "wrath has come upon them to the utmost"

Word counts from these 20 verses in Thessalonians chapter 2

Paul is talking about the things of God more than of men:

- God (14) + father once and "His" twice,
- Jesus (3),
- Christ (2),
- Spirit (1),

Paul was more about his readers than himself:

- Us or we (20), vs
- You or your (32), Brethren (4), children (2)

Other terms used often:

- Come (5), Accept (1) or Receive(1) vs Hinder (2)or Opposition (1),
- Exhort, implore, proclaim or impart (5), Speak or speech (4), Gospel (4),
- Glory (3),
- Men (4)



**Lesson 3 – Example of Prayer** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 3)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[3A] 1 Thessalonians 3:1-8 Who was the messenger between Paul and the Thessalonians? \_\_\_\_\_

[3B] 1 Thess 3:9-10 How often did Paul pray for a chance to see the Thessalonians? \_\_\_\_\_

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 (for questions C – H)

[3C] Who is praying to who? \_\_\_\_\_

[3D] Who besides God is listening? \_\_\_\_\_

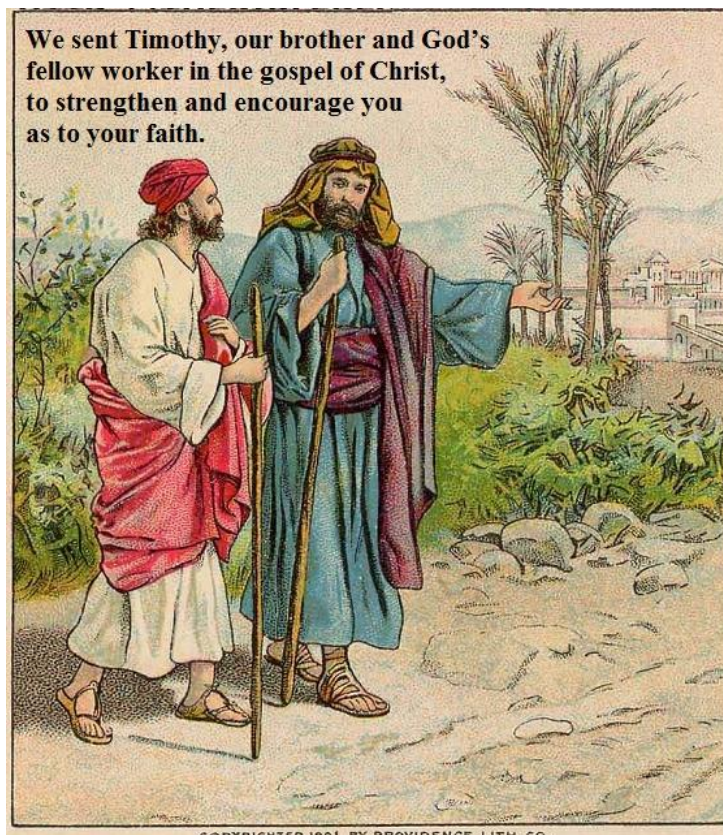
[3E] What is being requested for whom? \_\_\_\_\_

[3F] How does the person praying try to convince God to answer? \_\_\_\_\_

[3G] What results, if any, are reported to the prayer? \_\_\_\_\_

[3H] How can we apply this to our own prayer life? How does this compare with the prayer of Moses in Numbers 14:19?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_



----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 3 – Example of Prayer** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 3)

[3A] 1 Thessalonians 3:1-8 Who was the messenger between Paul and the Thessalonians? Timothy

[3B] 1 Thess 3:9-10 How often did Paul pray for a chance to see the Thessalonians? Night and day

[3C] 1 Thess 3:11-13 Who is praying to who? Paul is praying to God the Father, and God the Son.

[3D] Who besides God is listening? His readers

[3E] What is being requested for whom? That Paul will see them again, they would have more love for each other and for everyone, and God will establish their hearts blameless & holy at His coming

[3F] How does the person praying try to convince God to answer? By loving as he wants them to love

[3G] What results, if any, are reported to the prayer? None are explicitly reported here but in

2 Thessalonians 1:3 it says, "We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater," so clearly the prayer was answered.

[3H] *How can we apply this to our own prayer life?*

When we are praying for others, we could also try to show them an example of what we are hoping for them. Do you want someone to be more loving? Show them love. Do you want them to become saved? Show them the difference it has made in your life to know the Lord.

*How does this compare with the prayer of Moses in Numbers 14:19?*

Both are prayers for the ultimate salvation of the people being prayed over, but Moses' prayer is based on reminding God of His good reputation (as if God really needed reminded) while Paul does not do that. In both cases the men are offering the sacrifice of righteousness and trusting in the Lord.

Psalm 4:5 "Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and trust in the Lord."

I'm not a Moses or a Paul so the only righteousness I have to offer God is the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. That is more than sufficient, isn't it?

**For further thought:**

(3i) In 1 Thess. 3:9-10 who is praying for what, if anything, and what does it teach us about prayer?

(3j) In 1 Thess 3:13 what, if anything, is promised to who under what conditions? Is this our promise?

(3k) In 2 Thess. 1:3, 11, 12 who is praying for what, if anything, and what does it teach us about prayer?

(3l) In 1 Thess. 1:1-3 who is praying for what, if anything, and what does it teach us about prayer?

(3m) In 1 Thess. 5:17, 18, 23, 24, 28 who is praying for what and what does it teach us about prayer?

(3n) In 2 Thess. 1:3, 11, 12 who is praying for what, if anything, and what does it teach us about prayer?

(3o) In 2 Thess. 2:13, 16, 17 who is praying for what and what does it teach us about prayer?

(3p) In 2 Thess. 3:1-5. .257 who is praying for what, if anything, and what does it teach us about prayer?

(3q) What poetical passages or literary devices do you find in 1 Thessalonians chapter 3?

(3r) If someone asked you what 1 Thessalonians chapter 3 was about what would you tell them?

(3s) What did you learn about 1 Thessalonians chapter 3 that you would like to remember?

(3t) What verse or passage from 1 Thessalonians chapter 3 would be best to memorize? Why?



**Lesson 4 – Love & Holiness** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4, Jeremiah 31)

Paul has prayed that the Thessalonians increase in love and holiness so he spends some time talking about what love and holiness mean and where they come from.

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[4A] 1 Thessalonians 4:1 Once we have pleased God can we stop trying to get better? \_\_\_\_\_

[4B] 1 Thessalonians 4:2 Where do Paul's commands get their authority? \_\_\_\_\_

[4C] 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 For what purpose has God called us? \_\_\_\_\_

[4D] 1 Thessalonians 4:8 If we reject this purpose who are we rejecting? \_\_\_\_\_

[4E] 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 Who teaches us to love one another? \_\_\_\_\_

[4F] Jeremiah 31:33 Where will God put His law? \_\_\_\_\_

[4G] Jeremiah 31:34 What will God do with iniquity and sin? \_\_\_\_\_

[4H] 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16 Who will rise first? \_\_\_\_\_

[4I] 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 Where will those who are alive meet Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

[4J] Exodus 3:15 Who is God the God of? \_\_\_\_\_

[4K] Matthew 22:31-32 Who is God the God of? \_\_\_\_\_

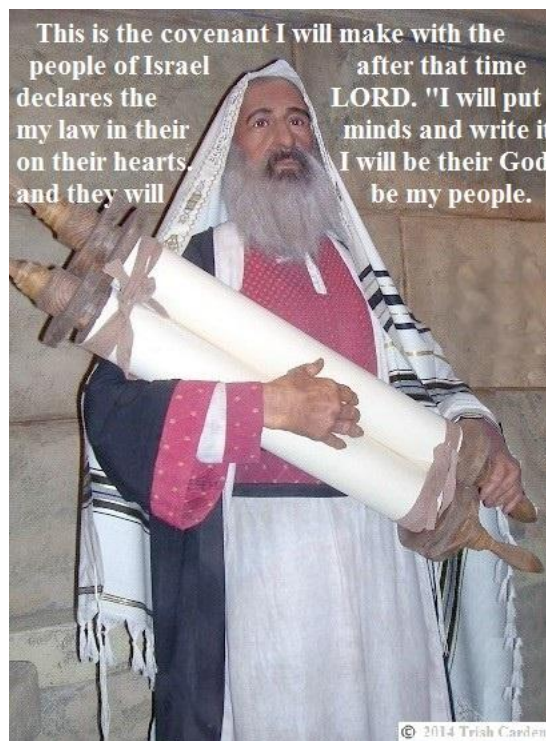
[4L] 1 Thessalonians 4:9 & Jeremiah 31:33 If God is doing the teaching and putting the right stuff in our heart why must we "excel still more" as it says in 1Thess 4:1 & 4:10?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 4 – Love & Holiness** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4, Jeremiah 31)

- [4A] 1 Thessalonians 4:1 Once we have pleased God can we stop trying to get better?  
No, we must excel still more.
- [4B] 1 Thessalonians 4:2 Where do Paul's commands get their authority? The Lord Jesus
- [4C] 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 For what purpose has God called us? Sanctification
- [4D] 1 Thessalonians 4:8 If we reject this purpose who are we rejecting? God
- [4E] 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 Who teaches us to love one another? God
- [4F] Jeremiah 31:33 Where will God put His law? Within and on the heart
- [4G] Jeremiah 31:34 What will God do with iniquity and sin? Forgive and forget
- [4H] 1 Thessalonians 4:13-16 Who will rise first? The dead in Christ
- [4I] 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 Where will those who are alive meet Christ? In the clouds, in the air  
More on 1 Thess 4:13-18 in Lesson 6.
- [4J] Exodus 3:15 Who is God the God of? the Fathers, Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
- [4K] Matthew 22:31-32 Who is God the God of? The living
- [4L] 1 Thessalonians 4:9 & Jeremiah 31:33 If God is doing the teaching and putting the right stuff in our heart why must we "excel still more" as it says in 1Thess 4:1 & 4:10?

How long would you continue to try and teach a child to walk who did not want to walk? God is even more patient than we are, but if we make no effort at all towards purity and honor, His discipline and the consequences of our poor choices may become very unpleasant. The God who destroyed the world to rescue Noah and his family is going to come crashing through whatever obstacles are in the way to rescue you from your sin. If you are holding onto some idol that is precious to you, don't be surprised if He destroys it. Once I understood this truth, I began to pray earnestly that I might have real righteousness in the here and now.

**For further thought:**

- (4m) Compare 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 with Leviticus 23:24. What do we learn by making this comparison?
- (4n) Compare 1 Thessalonians 4:14 with Gen 8:4. Is this an Old Testament 'type' or 'anti-type' being alluded to by the New
- (4o) In 1 Thess 4:16-17 what, if anything, is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?
- (4p) What does "rejects this" refer to in 1 Thessalonians 4:8?
- (4q) What poetical passages or literary devices do you find in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4?
- (4r) If someone asked you what 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 was about what would you tell them?
- (4s) What did you learn about 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 that you would like to remember?
- (4t) What verse or passage from 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 would be best to memorize? Why?

**Possible Answers**

- (4m) Trumpets (Leviticus 23:24) - The first of the fall feasts. Some believe this day points to the Rapture of the Church when the Messiah Jesus will appear in the heavens as He comes for His bride, the Church. The Rapture is always associated in Scripture with the blowing of a loud trumpet (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:52).
- (4n) The Ark came to rest on Mt Ararat on same month and day as the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

**Lesson 5 – Obtaining Holiness** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5, Exodus 31:12-13)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[5A] 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 What did they already know? \_\_\_\_\_

[5B] 1 Thessalonians 5:3 | Ezekiel 13:10 How were the people misled? \_\_\_\_\_

[5C] 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 We should not slumber but rather \_\_\_\_\_

[5D] 1 Thess 5:7-8 What two piece of armor should be have? \_\_\_\_\_

[5E] 1 Thess 5:8 | Isaiah 59:17 What armor is put on here? \_\_\_\_\_

[5F] 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 What is our destiny? \_\_\_\_\_

[5G] 1 Thessalonians 5:11 What are we to do to one another? \_\_\_\_\_

[5H] 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 Who are we to esteem? \_\_\_\_\_

[5I] 1 Thessalonians 5:14 With whom are we to be patient? \_\_\_\_\_

[5J] 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18 What is God's will for us? \_\_\_\_\_

[5K] 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 Are we to believe people who claim to prophecy? \_\_\_\_\_

[5L] 1 Thessalonians 5:23-28 Compare 1 Thess 5:23-24 with Ex 31:12-13. What does this teach us about the nature of God and/or our relationship with Him?

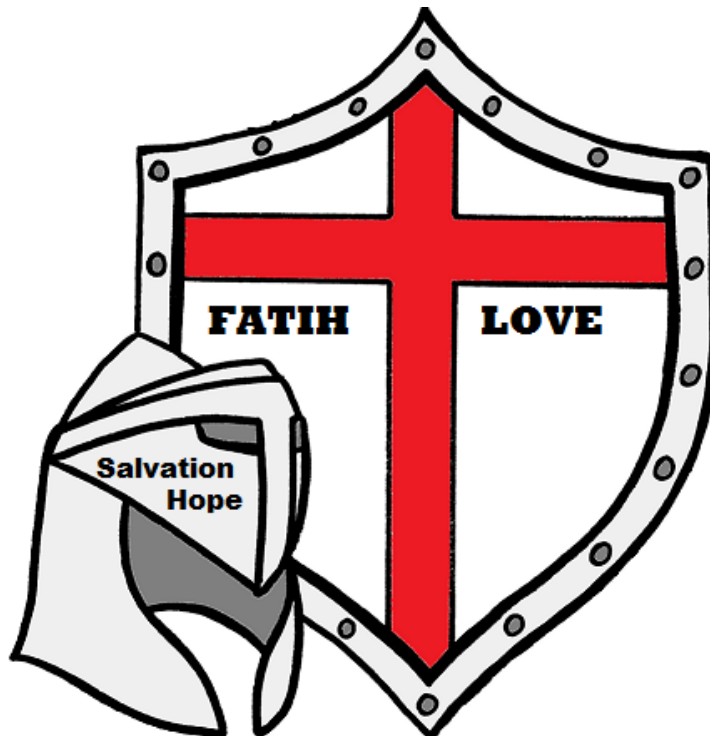
*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 5 – Obtaining Holiness** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5, Exodus 31:12-13)

[5A] 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 What did they already know? The day of the Lord will come suddenly

[5B] 1 Thessalonians 5:3 | Ezekiel 13:10 How were the people misled?

Peace was claimed when there was no peace (See also Jeremiah 6:14, 8:11)

[5C] 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 We should not slumber but rather be on the alert and sober.

[5D] 1 Thessalonians 5:7-8 What two piece of armor should be have? Breastplate of faith & love  
and helmet of hope of salvation

[5E] 1 Thessalonians 5:8 | Isaiah 59:17 What armor is put on here? Breastplate of righteousness  
and helmet of salvation

[5F] 1 Thess 5:9-10 What is our destiny? Obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ

[5G] 1 Thessalonians 5:11 What are we to do to one another? Encourage and edify

More on 1 Thess 5:1-11 in Lesson 6

[5H] 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 Who are we to esteem? Those in the ministry

[5I] 1 Thessalonians 5:14 With whom are we to be patient? Everyone

[5J] 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18 What is God's will for us? Rejoice always, pray unceasingly,  
and be thankful

[5K] 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 Are we to believe people who claim to prophecy?

If what they say passes scrutiny (v. 21) (see 1 John 4:1-6)

[5L] It is God who does the sanctifying. The observance of the Law is to honor Him and remind us of who He is. It doesn't sanctify us. He does that. What we are supposed to do is here in what is sometimes called the Ten Commandments of the New Testament (1 Thessalonians 5:12-22)

I Appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

II Live in peace with one another.

III Admonish the unruly,

IV Encourage the fainthearted,

V Help the weak,

VI Be patient with everyone.

VII See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

VIII Rejoice always; pray without ceasing;

IX In everything give thanks

X Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. but examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

Doing these things does not obtain salvation or sanctification. That is the work of God. Doing these things is evidence of salvation and sanctification. If you are not doing these things you are not supposed to try harder, but you must beg God for grace. If this seems similar to the previous lesson, congratulations, you have been paying attention.

**For further thought:**

(5m) In 1 Thess 5:9-10 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(5n) Do you pray as much as Paul says to in First Thessalonians 5:17. Why?

(5o) In 1 Thess. 5:17, 18, 23, 24, 28 who is praying for what, if anything, and what does it teach us about prayer?

(5p) In 1 Thess 5:23 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

**Lesson 6 – The Day of the Lord Promised** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1, Joel 2)

Read these two promises from the Bible and compare them by answering the questions below:

**Joel 2:30-31**

[6A1] Who is speaking to whom?

\_\_\_\_\_

[6B1] What is promised to whom?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[6C1] What are the conditions of the promise being fulfilled, if any?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[6D] Do these promises apply to us? Why or why not?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

[6E] What do 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:1-11 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:5-10 tell us about the coming of the day of the Lord?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Will not the day of the LORD be darkness instead of light.**  
**Amos 5:20**

**Near is the great day of the LORD.**  
**Zephaniah 1:14**

**Alas for the day!**  
**For the day of the LORD is near,**  
**And it will come as destruction**  
**from the Almighty.**  
**Joel 1:15**

**The Day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.** 1 Thessalonians 5:2

"The Day of the Lord" is a phrase that occurs 24 times in the Bible and refers either to God's judgment on nations or a future day when Jesus returns and enacts His final judgment on mankind.

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**Lesson 6 – The Day of the Lord Promised** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1, Plenty of places)

**[6-1] Joel 2:30-31**

[A] God is speaking through the prophet Joel to all the inhabitants of the Land. (Joel 1:1-2)

[B] That in the midst of the terrible catastrophes to some will be delivered.

[C] Those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved.

**[6-2] 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:5-10**

[A] Paul is writing to the church of Thessalonians. (v. 1)

[B] Destruction is promised to those who afflict the Thessalonians.

[C] Those singled out for this eternal destruction will be those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[6D] These two promises are the flip sides of the same promise. Those who obey the Gospel and call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be saved in the coming tribulation, but those who don't will be eternally destroyed. Seems clear to me. I'm calling on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope you will, too.

[6E] Here is how I analyze it:

1 Th 4:13 We should not be ignorant about dead people

1 Th 4:14 Jesus won the victory over death

1 Th 4:15 Those who die before the coming of Jesus Christ get to see him first

1 Th 4:16 The Lord will descend with a shout and a trumpet sounding

1 Th 4:17 We will all meet the Lord in the air

1 Th 4:18 We should comfort the grief stricken with the promises above

1 Th 5:1-3 There is no need to speculate about when all this will happen because it will sneak up on the unsaved. "...like a thief in the night."

1 Th 5:4-11 It will not sneak up on us because we will live in constant hope, always expecting him to return at any moment. Because we expect him at any moment will be as good as we can be. Notice the allusion in verse 8 to Isaiah 59:7 which also says, "He put on garments of vengeance" a clear reference to the promised day of the Lord's wrath

2 Th 1:5 Their increase in virtue indicates they will escape the coming day

2 Th 1:6-7 Justice will come in the form of the Lord Jesus leading an army of angels with fire

2 Th 1:8-9 Retribution of eternal destruction will come to those who do not obey the gospel

2 Th 1:10 The Lord and his saints will be glorified and we will marvel at Him

**For further thought:**

(6f) In 2 Thess 1:11-12 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(6g) The phrase "the day of the Lord" is used nineteen times in the Old Testament (Isaiah 2:12; 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; Zechariah 14:1; Malachi. 4:5) and four times in the New Testament (Acts 2:20; 2 Thessalonians 2:2; 2 Peter 3:10). It is also alluded to in other passages (Revelation 6:17; 16:14). Compare these.

(6h) In 2 Thess 2:13-14 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(6i) In 2 Thess 3:5 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(6j) In 2 Thess 1:3, 11, 12 who is praying for what and what does it teach us about prayer?

(6k) In 1 Thess 1:4 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(6L) In 1 Thess 1:10 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(6m) In 1 Thess 2:19-20 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(6n) In 1 Thess 3:13 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(6o) In 1 Thess 4:16-17 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(6p) In 1 Thess 5:23 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(6q) In 1 Thess 5:9-10 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?



**Lesson 7 – Evil Men as Tools of God** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2, Genesis 50:20, Exodus 14:4)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[7A] 2 Thess 2:1-2 They are not to be disturbed by what? \_\_\_\_\_

[7B] 2 Thess 2:3 Who must be revealed first? \_\_\_\_\_

[7C] 2 Thessalonians 2:4 Who does he claim to be? \_\_\_\_\_

[7D] Daniel 11:36 Who will he speak monstrous things against? \_\_\_\_\_

[7E] 2 Thessalonians 2:5-7 What is already at work? \_\_\_\_\_

[7F] Daniel 7:25 What will he alter? \_\_\_\_\_

[7G] 2 Thessalonians 2:8 How will the lawless one be killed? \_\_\_\_\_

[7H] Daniel 8:25 How will he be broken? \_\_\_\_\_

[7I] 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 What kind of wonders will he show? \_\_\_\_\_

[7J] 2 Thessalonians 2:11 What will God send? \_\_\_\_\_

[7K] Exodus 14:4 What was the purpose of hardening Pharaoh's heart? \_\_\_\_\_

[7L] 2 Thessalonians 2:12 What did they take pleasure in? \_\_\_\_\_

[7M] 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 When did God chose them? \_\_\_\_\_

[7N] Genesis 50:20 What did they mean to do as opposed to how God intended it?

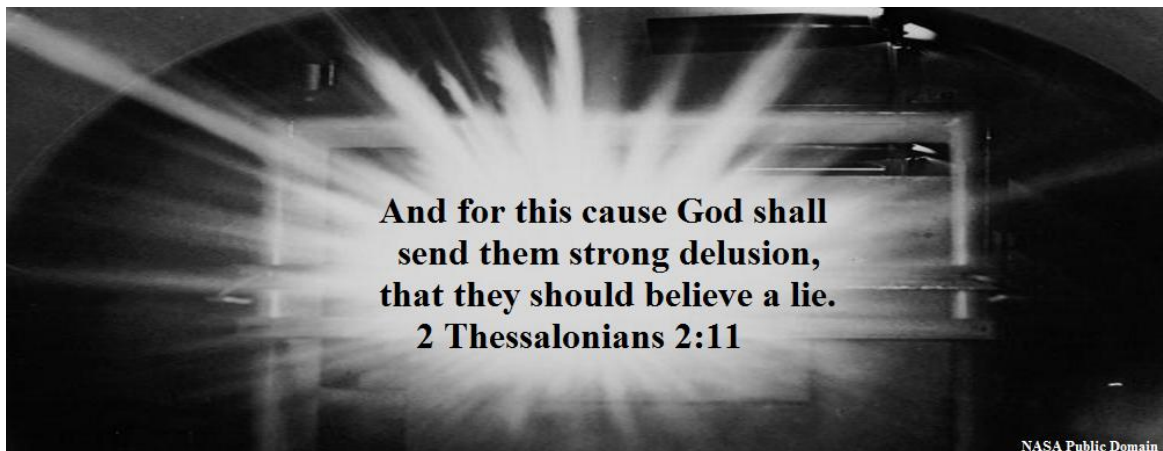
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[7O] 2 Thessalonians 2:15 What are they to do? \_\_\_\_\_

[7P] 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 Who is expected to strengthen them? \_\_\_\_\_

[7Q] 2 Thessalonians 2:11 An atheist once attacked the Bible with this: "It says 'God sends upon them a strong delusion, to make them believe what is false.' How could the Bible be 'God's Word' when it admits, chapter and verse, that God was a deceiver and a swindler of people? By these acts, God is the perfect model of a liar, which teaches followers to lie in direct violation of His Own commandment." How could we answer him?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_



----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 7 – Evil Men as Tools of God** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 2, Genesis 50:20, Exodus 14:4)

[7A] 2 Thess 2:1-2 They are not to be disturbed by what? News that the day of the Lord has come

[7B] 2 Thess 2:3 Who must be revealed first? The man of lawlessness, the son of destruction

[7C] 2 Thessalonians 2:4 Who does he claim to be? God

[7D] Daniel 11:36 Who will he speak monstrous things against? The God of gods

[7E] 2 Thessalonians 2:5-7 What is already at work? The mystery of lawlessness

[7F] Daniel 7:25 What will he alter? Times and law

[7G] 2 Thessalonians 2:8 How will the lawless one be killed? The breath of the Lord

[7H] Daniel 8:25 How will he be broken? Without human agency

[7I] 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 What kind of wonders will he show? False wonders

[7J] 2 Thessalonians 2:11 What will God send? A deluding influence

[7K] Exodus 14:4 What was the purpose of hardening Pharaoh's heart?

So that the Egyptians would know that God is the Lord

[7L] 2 Thessalonians 2:12 What did they take pleasure in? Wickedness

[7M] 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 When did God choose them? From the beginning

[7N] Genesis 50:20 What did they mean to do as opposed to how God intended it?

Joseph's brothers meant to do him harm, but God used it for good.

[7O] 2 Thessalonians 2:15 What are they to do? Stand firm and hold to the traditions

[7P] 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 Who is expected to strengthen them?

God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

[7Q] God hides the full truth from His enemies. What is wrong with that? The lesson for us is to not be His enemy. It is also to understand that God is sovereign. There are no surprises in heaven, only plans. Romans 8:28 "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

**For further thought:**

(7r) In 2 Thess 2:6 Paul says they know what restrains the man of lawlessness? Do you know? What?

(7s) In 2 Thess 2:13-14 what is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(7t) In 2 Thess. 2:13-17 who is praying for what, if anything, and what does it teach us about prayer?

(7u) What poetical passages or literary devices do you find in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2?

(7v) If someone asked you what 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 was about what would you tell them?

(7w) What did you learn about 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 that you would like to remember?

(7x) What verse or passage from 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 would be best to memorize? Why?

**Lesson 8 – Patience in Doing Well** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3, Is 40:31, Ps 37:7, Ps 4:5)

Please read these scriptures and answer the associated questions:

[8A] 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 What is Paul's prayer request? \_\_\_\_\_

[8B] 2 Thessalonians 3:3 What will the Lord do? \_\_\_\_\_

[8C] 2 Thessalonians 3:4 What was Paul confident of? \_\_\_\_\_

[8D] 2 Thessalonians 3:5 He hopes the Lord will direct them how? \_\_\_\_\_ t

[8E] Isaiah 40:31 What happens to those who wait for the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

[8F] 2 Thessalonians 3:6 Who are they to avoid? \_\_\_\_\_

[8G] Psalm 37:7 What is not supposed to trouble us? \_\_\_\_\_

[8H] 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 What example to did Paul give them? \_\_\_\_\_

[8I] 2 Thessalonians 3:10 Those who do not work are also not allowed to do what? \_\_\_\_\_

[8J] 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 Whose bread are we to eat? \_\_\_\_\_

[8K] 2 Thessalonians 3:13 What we not to grow weary of doing? \_\_\_\_\_

[8L] Psalm 4:5 After we do right what should we do? \_\_\_\_\_

[8M] 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 How are we to regard those who do evil? \_\_\_\_\_

[8N] 2 Thessalonians 3:16-18 What did Paul ask of the Lord for them? \_\_\_\_\_

[8O] 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 Does this mean we are not supposed to feed hungry people who are lazy?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_



**When we visited this cathedral on a mission trip, our missionary guide told us that the many beggars we saw on the sidewalk were "professional beggars."**

**Mérida Cathedral in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico,**

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----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 8 – Patience in Doing Well** (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3. Is 40:31, Ps 37:7, Ps 4:5)

[8A] 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 What is Paul's prayer request?

That the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and that he would be rescued from evil people

[8B] 2 Thessalonians 3:3 What will the Lord do? Strengthen and protect them

[8C] 2 Thessalonians 3:4 What was Paul confident of? Their continued obedience to the Lord

[8D] 2 Thessalonians 3:5 He hopes the Lord will direct them how?

Into the love of God and steadfastness of Christ

[8E] Isaiah 40:31 What happens to those who wait for the Lord? They gain new strength

[8F] 2 Thessalonians 3:6 Who are they to avoid? Those who lead an unruly life

[8G] Psalm 37:7 What is not supposed to trouble us? Other people getting away with being evil

[8H] 2 Thessalonians 3:7-9 What example to did Paul give them? He worked and paid his own way

[8I] 2 Thessalonians 3:10 Those who do not work are also not allowed to do what? Eat

[8J] 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 Whose bread are we to eat? Our own

[8K] 2 Thessalonians 3:13 What we not to grow weary of doing? Good

[8L] Psalm 4:5 After we do right what should we do? Trust in the Lord

[8M] 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 How are we to regard those who do evil?

Not as an enemy, but as a misbehaving brother

[8N] 2 Thessalonians 3:16-18 What did Paul ask of the Lord for them? Peace and grace

[8O] 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 Does this mean we are not supposed to feed hungry people who are lazy?

Yes, that is exactly what it means. We have filled our society with people who think of nothing except what they can get and not what they owe, their duty, or how they might contribute. I call it "learned helplessness" and it is destroying our culture. The prodigal son would never have repented and returned if he had not been hungry. (See Luke 15:17) I'm not suggesting that we let anyone starve to death, but if we protect people from all discomfort how will they ever learn to take care of themselves let alone be useful to anyone else?

**For further thought:**

(8p) Does 2 Thess 3:5 mean Paul expects them to receive God's love and be confident in the steadfastness of Christ or does he mean they are to imitate God's love and Christ's steadfastness? How do you know?

(8q) Does 2 Thess 4:14-15 mean shunning is biblical or not? What makes you think that?

(8r) In 2 Thess. 3:1-5. 257 who is praying for what, if anything, and what does it teach us about prayer?

(8s) In 2 Thess 3:5 what, if anything, is promised to who under what conditions? Does the promise apply to us?

(8t) Compare Paul's salutation in 2 Thess 3:16 with the ones in Ruth 2:4. Learn anything?

(8u) What poetical passages or literary devices do you find in 2 Thessalonians chapter 3?

(8v) If someone asked you what 2 Thessalonians chapter 3 was about what would you tell them?

(8w) What did you learn about 2 Thessalonians chapter 3 that you would like to remember?

(8x) What verse or passage from 2 Thessalonians chapter 3 would be best to memorize? Why?

**Lesson 9 – Praying the Scripture and Conclusion**

[9A] Pick out a scripture from 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians and reword it into a prayer. Try to include a passage from the Old Testament, if possible. Passage Reference[s]: \_\_\_\_\_

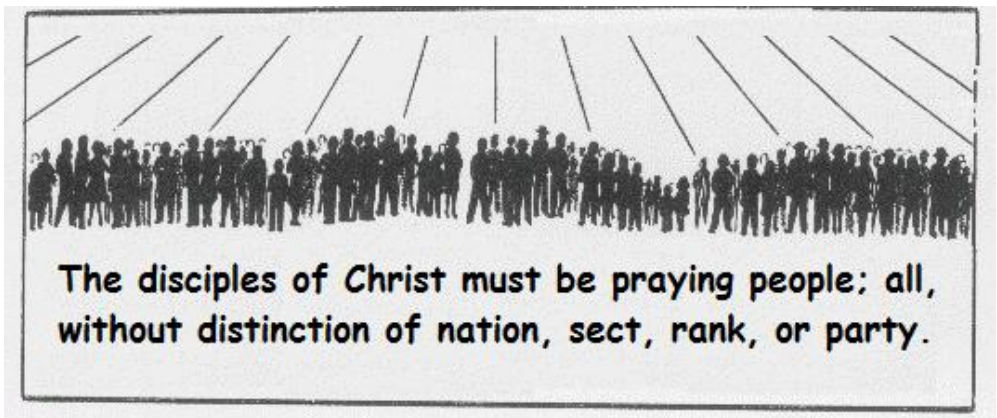
Your Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

You may or may not want to share your prayer with the group. If you need an example what we did with 1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 23:30 and 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:17 is on the next page.

[9B] What did you learn from this course on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians that you hope you will remember?  
*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[9C] Is there a verse or passage from 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians that you might want to memorize? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[9D] If someone asked you what 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians are about, what would you say?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 9– Praying the Scripture and Conclusion**

[9A] 1 Chronicles 23:30 "They are to stand every morning to thank and to praise the Lord, and likewise at evening."

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

**Our prayer:** Lord Jesus, I know that when I pray often everything in my life is better. I don't mean my circumstances get better, although they sometimes do; I mean my ability to cope with my circumstances gets better. When things are different than what suits me, in place of doubt you give me hope. When things are just as I like, you give me gratitude instead of pride. In the same way I need to more often think and pray for all those I love. But my mind wanders to me and my concerns instead. So Lord, too often, I forget to pray or focus on myself too much. Please help me to be consistent in praying to you often, praising your name and in lifting up my kith and kin to your loving watchcare. Amen.

[9B-D] Notes on classroom discussion about 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians:

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." -- 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16-18