



## The Oaks Baptist Church

Grand Prairie, Texas

### Lesson Leaders:

**James Haymon**  
**Jose Cisneros**

### Class Leaders:

**Director: Ron Harris**  
**Inreach: Pat Hester**  
**Outreach: Joyce Kirkland**  
**Secretary: Mary Clark**  
**Deacon: C M Hester**

## Christian Commitment A Study in 1 Thessalonians

Date	Lesson	Text
10/21	Introduction to 1 Thess	
10/28	Being Available	1:1-10
11/04	Being Pleasing to God	2:1-12
11/11	Living God's Word	2:13-20
11/18	Sustained Faith	3:1-13
11/25	Godly Life	4:1-12
12/02	Living Hope	4:13-18
12/09	Special Lesson by Jose Cisneros	
12/16	Special Lesson by Jose Cisneros	
01/06	Plan of Salvation	5:1-11
01/13	Call to Commitment	5:12-28
<b>01/20</b>	<b>Review and Summary</b>	

## NEXT SERIES

## Imitating Jesus A Study in Colossians

Date	Lesson	Text
01/27	Introduction to Colossians	
02/03	Focused on Christ	1:12-23
02/10	Raised with Christ	2:6-15
02/17	Clothed with Christ	3:5-17
02/24	Disciplined for Life	4:2-17

## Review and Summary

### 1 Thessalonians

I believe that every book of the Bible makes one or more unique contributions to the Word of God and that discerning what these contributions are will prove to be the key to understanding the message of that book. Let's seek to identify some of the outstanding contributions of the Thessalonian epistles to the teaching of the Bible. The Book of 1 Thessalonians begins with three chapters describing how they came to faith and how this changed their lives and affected others. Other epistles, like Romans, Ephesians, and Colossians, begin with a doctrinal foundation, which serve as the basis for the applications which follow in subsequent chapters. In 1 Thessalonians, we find Paul repeatedly referring to things which the Thessalonians already knew. More than ten times, we find some reference to recalling what they already knew. From this we are informed that even though Paul was in Thessalonica for a relatively short time, he must have taught them a good deal of truth (doctrine). Thus, we dare not assume from Luke's brief account that everything that we need to know about Paul's ministry at Thessalonica can be learned from Luke. Much, indeed most, of what we need to know about Thessalonica must be learned from Paul's words in his epistles to the Thessalonians. The Thessalonian epistles, perhaps more than any other Pauline epistles, reveal the depth of Paul's love and affection for the saints – these saints in particular. If we would desire to know and to imitate the heart of Paul, we dare not neglect the study of the Thessalonian epistles. **The Thessalonian epistles focus on three major areas of application: sanctified sex (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8), no sponging, hard work – (1 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Thessalonians 3), and the second coming (1 Thessalonians 4:13—5:11; 2 Thessalonians 1 and 2).** These topics are as relevant and necessary as they were in Paul's day.

(From "Paul's Epistles to the Thessalonians" By Bob Deffinbaugh) - URL: <http://bible.org/seriespage/why-i-want-study-thessalonian-epistles-acts-16-and-17>

As we leave the Book of 1 Thessalonians, let us pause for a moment to reflect on some of the **major areas of emphasis** that we have seen. Salvation is the result of divine election and is ultimately the work of God (1 Thessalonians 1:2-5). Here is the basis for our security. Sanctification is the goal of our salvation. We were saved to become holy, and thus prepared for the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sanctification is a life-long process that involves the purification of every part of our humanity (see 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13; 4:1-12). The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is the "finish line" for people of faith in Jesus. It is also a shocking surprise for those who are lost. Christians should eagerly anticipate and watch for the Second Coming. It is then that the dead in Christ will be resurrected, to be eternally united with Christ and with fellow believers. The wicked do not see the end coming, and continue to live in a sort of "drunken" state of self-indulgence, feeling secure in their sin, because they believe that judgment is not coming. Suffering for the sake of Christ is part of the normal Christian life. Paul and his associates suffered in bringing the gospel to Thessalonica. They taught the Thessalonians that trusting in Jesus would bring persecution. Thus, the Thessalonian saints became kindred spirits with the Jewish brethren in Judea, because they both suffered persecution at the hands of their kinsmen. God has designed the church and designated its functions in a way that best equips it to withstand persecution and opposition in this life and also to prepare Christians for the glory of God's presence for all eternity. Multiple levels of (plural) church leadership and the decentralization of ministry (one-another ministry) best promotes sanctification and perseverance in the midst of opposition and persecution. The Scriptures are essential for the spiritual health and growth of the church. Grace is the great common denominator of the Christian life. Our salvation and sanctification are, in the end, God's work. It is a work in which we participate; it is not a work in which we predominate. Our works are the result of His work.

(from "Paul's Epistles to the Thessalonians" by Bob Deffinbaugh)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Lesson 01: Committed to Being Available - 1 Thess 1:1-10**

#### Key Verse: 1:3

Genuine Christian commitment by its very nature is visible and made available to God (1 Pet. 3:15). The Thessalonians exhibited the triad of Christian virtues —faith, love, and hope—in their lives.

### **Lesson 02: Committed to Being Pleasing to God - 1 Thess 2:1-12**

#### Key Verse: 2:4

Paul was committed to pleasing the God who had saved him, so he lived in a way that reflected the character of God. Christians are to live or walk in a manner worthy of God and the gospel (Ephesians 4:1; Colossians 1:10). His point is to urge Christians to conform their lives to the character of God.

### **Lesson 03: Committed to Living God's Word - 1 Thess 2:13-20**

#### Key Verse: 2:13

When the Holy Spirit empowered and authenticated the gospel message, the Thessalonians received it as the Word of God, and not merely the words of men. Paul is saying that it is deceitful to proclaim the truth and yet fail to live it.

### **Lesson 04: Committed to Sustained Faith - 1 Thess 3:1-13**

#### Key Verses: 3:5-6

The Thessalonians were going through severe tribulation (1 Thess. 3:4), which prompted Paul to be very concerned about their steadfastness. A decision was made to send Timothy to Thessalonica to encourage these young believers to stand fast in their commitment to Christ. On his return, Timothy's report of the faith, love, and stability of the Thessalonian Christians caused Paul to be encouraged.

### **Lesson 05: Committed to a Godly Life - 1 Thess 4:1-12**

#### Key Verse: 4:1

Paul reminds the Thessalonians about Christian behavior. Those who are captivated by God's grace and love will want to do nothing so much as to please Him by fulfilling His will and purpose in all areas of their lives. A believer with a thriving spiritual life will never be satisfied with his present level of spiritual attainment. Every local church should be known for its Bible teaching, for a weakness in Bible teaching limits a believer's capacity to please the Lord more and more.

### **Lesson 06: Committed to a Living Hope - 1 Thess 4:13-18**

#### Key Verse: 4:13

Only Christ offers permanent, eternal hope. God provides hope in a hopeless world. May we hope in this promise because it is our only hope.

### **Lesson 07: Committed to God's Plan of Salvation - 1 Thess 5:1-11**

#### Key Verses: 5:8-9

Salvation is only obtained through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's plan of salvation for believers includes their deliverance from that period of divine wrath.

### **Lesson 08: Call to Commitment - 1 Thess 5:12-28**

#### Key Verses: 5:23-24

Paul was confident that God would finish His good work in them.