

Outline Studies On
First
Thessalonians

James W. Knox

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Lesson 01

A MODEL CHRISTIAN

In chapter one of First Thessalonians we find outlined the things which characterize the life of a model Christian. While one is not saved by works, there is no New Testament passage, dealing with the new birth, which does not include in its context some statement or instruction regarding the good works which follow regeneration.

- I.** THEY HAVE BEEN CONVERTED (v. 5).
 - A. By the word of God (Romans 10:17).
 - B. Which produced the Power (John 1:12).
 - C. When the Holy Ghost came in (Titus 3:5).

- II.** THEY HAVE ASSURANCE (v. 5).
 - A. Security is essential growth (Philippians 1:6, Colossians 2:2-3).
 - B. Lack of security stifles growth (Hebrews 6:11-12, 10:22-23).

- III.** THEY BECAME FOLLOWERS OF THE LORD (v. 6).

One truly born again will show evident vital signs of life.

- A. Present in local church (Acts 2:42).
- B. Feeding upon the Bible (1 Peter 2:2).
- C. Forsaking sins and companions of the past (2 Corinthians 5:17).

A true sheep will follow the true Shepherd (John 10:27).

- IV. THEY BECAME EXAMPLES OF THE FAITH TO OTHERS (v. 7).**
- A. The World will take Note of a Real Christians (Acts 4:13).
 - B. The Lost will study a Believer's Conduct (Hebrews 10:32-33).

- V. THEY SOUNDED OUT THE WORD (v. 8).**
- A. Their Voices Were Heard
Such terms as "secret disciple" and "silent witness" are inventions of this Laodicean age.
There is no such creature in the scriptures.
 - B. The Word of The Lord
Not opinions or creeds, but God's words.

- VI. THEY SERVED HAVING TURNED (v. 9).**

There are many professing Christians trying to serve God without success because they have never turned from their idols.

- A. Israel gave God lip service while clinging to idols (Joshua 24:14-25).
- B. Serving two masters is impossible (Matthew 6:24).

- VII. THEY WERE WATCHING (v.10).**

The model Christian who is saved and knows it, who is following the Lord in an exemplary fashion, who is sounding out the word of the Lord having turned from all idols, is the one who is watching and waiting for the coming of the Lord (Luke 12:36).

Lesson 02

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS ON CHAPTER 1

Here we look at a collection of thoughts, none of which make a lesson in themselves, but none of which should be overlooked by the student of the Bible.

Verse 1 The church The singular form is used only in the Thessalonian epistles. Throughout the remainder of the New Testament the reference is to churches; plural.

Verse 1 Notice the entire church is spoken of as being IN the Godhead. We see also a declaration of the unity of Father and Son, as to be in one is to be in the other.

Verse 1 The source of all grace, mercy and peace is declared to be the Godhead.

Verse 2 It is sad that most Christians find their brethren a cause for gossip, provocation, anger, etc. What a difference it would make if God's people could learn to be thankful for one another.

Verse 3 Work is the thing done as a matter of achievement. Labor is the pain spent in doing work as a matter of exertion. Work may be a joy, but labor is a weariness to the flesh (1 Thessalonians 2:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:8, 2 Corinthians 10:15, 1 Corinthians 3:8).

Carefully compare the following:

Lesson 03

THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF A MODEL MINISTRY

In chapter two we find the type of ministry which produces model Christians. Keeping in mind that to a measure all Christians are ministers (Matthew 5:14, 2 Corinthians 5:20). Let us each learn these practical lessons.

I. THE GOSPEL WITH MUCH CONTENTION (v. 2).

- A. In this day of puppet shows, dramas, choreography, and other such amusements being called “outreach ministries” we should note that none of this was necessary to reach men and women in the days of the early church. The resorting to the things of the world to “get results” is testimony to the fact that the power of the Holy Spirit is no longer manifest in most churches.
- B. To contend means to dispute earnestly, to maintain, to assert (Jude 3). The tool of God’s true ministers has always been straight, hard, sound, preaching of the gospel. In a wicked world, such declaration of truth will result in much contention.

II. AFFECTIONATE CARE FOR CONVERTS (v. 7).

- A. Feeding the flock (1 Peter 5:2, John 21:15-17).
- B. With sincere milk (1 Peter 2:2).
- C. Not as lords but loving examples (1 Peter 5:3).
- D. Seeking those which stray (Galatians 6:1, Zechariah 11:16).
- E. Ceaselessly (Zechariah 11:17, John 10:12-13).

III. GIVING OF ENTIRE SELF (v. 8).

- A. Following the way of the cross (1 John 3:16).
- B. Giving all for others (Philippians 2:1-4).
- C. Even when unpleasant (Romans 15:3).

IV. CEASELESS LABOR (v. 9).

The Lord's ministers are on call 24 hours a day with no time off for good behavior.

V. EXEMPLARY CONDUCT (vv. 10, 12).

- A. Forsaking any attitude or action which might hinder (Romans 14:7, 13).
- B. Ever standing as an example of good works (Matthew 5:14-16, 1 Timothy 4:12).

VI. VERBALLY ADMONISHED (v. 11).

- A. Exhorted -- urged, advised, cautioned.
- B. Comforted (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- C. Charged -- to impart strength or power.



PERSONAL NOTES 

Lesson 04

THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF A MODEL MINISTRY

Here we will consider those verses discussed in the previous lesson with our attention toward those things NOT made use of by the Lord's ministers.

I. NOT DECEIT (v. 3).

- A. This would make them contrary to many (2 John 7),
- B. Smooth talking men stealers (Romans 16:18),
- C. And would necessitate the much contention of verse 2.

II. NOT UNCLEANNES (v. 3).

- A. This would immediately identify them as commanded of God (Psalms 19:8),
- B. And subject to the word they are to be preaching (Psalms 12:6). (*See vs. 10*).

III. NOT GUILE (v. 3).

- A. This identifies them with the Lord Jesus (1 Peter 2:20-21),
- B. And explains the stability of their converts (Ephesians 4:14).

Guile is treacherous cunning.

IV. NOT PLEASING MEN (v. 4).

- A. God's will was first in their estimation (Galatians 1:10).
- B. Above their own safety (Acts 5:27-29).
- C. Above the (often perverse) dictates of their followers (Exodus 32:22-24).

D. And the dictates of temporal governments (Acts 4:18-19).

V. NOT FLATTERING WORDS (v. 5).

A. To try and gain favor by praising works ruin (Proverbs 26:28).

B. Such will blind young converts to the truth ().

VI. NOT COVETOUSNESS (v. 5).

A. The minister who follows the Lord Jesus and produces model Christians never asks “how much” or “how many” (Matthew 8:19-20).

B. The covetous care not for the souls of God’s children but only for their possessions (2 Peter 2:3).

C. Such hirelings will flee at the first sign of danger (John

VII. NOT FOR SELF GLORY (v. 6).

A. Magnifying Jesus Christ (John 3:30);

B. Though it may mean the loss of all pride of life (1 Corinthians 4:19-16);

C. Is the path of glory (Philippians 2:5-11).



PERSONAL NOTES 

Lesson 05

THE DOCTRINE OF INSPIRATION

In chapter two and verse thirteen we have one of the most declarative statements in all the Bible concerning the Divine inspiration of the very words of God. As we study model Christians, ministers and churches we must realize that only childlike faith and fervent obedience to these very words can produce such testimonies.

I. BIBLICAL AUTHORSHIP

- A. The Holy Ghost moved men (2 Peter 1:20).
- B. The words these men scripted were inspired (2 Timothy 3:16).

II. SCRIPTURE'S PERFECTION

- A. Every word of God is pure (Proverbs 30:5).
- B. Every word of God is perfect (Psalms 19:7).

III. THE PRESERVATION OF THE WORD

- A. The words of the Bible cannot know corruption (1 Peter 1:23, Luke 8:11).
- B. The words of God have been preserved in their original purity and perfection to this generation (Psalms 12:6-7).
- C. The word of God shall outlast the heaven and the earth (Matthew 24:35).

IV. THE WORKING OF THE WORD

- A. Produces the new birth (1 Peter 1:22-23).
- B. Cleanses one from sin (John 15:3).

Lesson 06

SUFFERING

The model Christian does not have the same promises of material prosperity that were such a prominent part of the old covenant between God and Israel. The world will hate and persecute the followers of Christ just as vehemently as they did the Lord.

I. THE EXPERIENCE OF MODEL CHRISTIANS

- A. Much affliction (1:6).
- B. Suffered, shamefully entreated (2:2).
- C. Suffered of countrymen (2:14).
- D. Afflictions (3:3).
- E. Distresses (3:7).

II. THE FACT OF SUFFERING

- A. It is inevitable (Job 5:7; 14:1).
- B. Even for the believer (John 16:33; 15:18-21; 17:14)

III. TWO KINDS OF SUFFERING

- A. For wrongdoing (Galatians 6:7, 1 Peter 2:20).
- B. For right living (1 Peter 1:19-20; 4:12-16, Matthew 5:11-12).

IV. THE PURPOSE OF THE CHRISTIAN'S SUFFERING

- A. To make sympathetic and able to rightly minister (2 Corinthians 1:1-4; 7:6-7).
- B. To keep humble (2 Corinthians 12:7).
- C. To prove God's grace sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:8-10, Philippians 4:13).
- D. To make spiritually mature (Romans 5:3-5).
- E. To make happy at present (1 Peter 3:14).
- F. To make happy at Christ's return (1 Peter 4:12-16).
- G. To prove the promises of God (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Lesson 07

CROWNS

While one cannot earn salvation by good works there is no such thing in the Bible as a salvation which does not produce good works. The God who ordained the work ethic set forth in the previous lesson also commanded that one be duly compensated for work performed. It is a matter of fact that God abides by His principles. Therefore, the Bible sets forth crowns of rewards which may be earned by those who serve Him acceptably.

- I. THE INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN (1 CORINTHIANS 9:25-27).**
 - A. This honor will be bestowed upon those who overcame the lusts of the flesh.
 - B. Those refusing corruption win this prize.

- II. THE CROWN OF REJOICING (1THESSALONIANS 2:19-20, PHILIPPIANS 4:1).**
 - A. This has also been termed the soul-winner's crown. It is earned by winning others to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - B. Note the time when we rejoice. This is because in this life we can never really know who or how many we have won to Jesus.

- III. THE CROWN OF LIFE (JAMES 1:12, REVELATION 2:10).**
 - A. This is known as the Martyrs crown for the Biblical terminology in the verses sited is not "until death" but "UNTO" death.
 - B. None can say what they would do if confronted with death or denial.

IV. THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (2 TIMOTHY 4:8).

- A. This reward shall be given those who love the Lord's appearing. Many believe He shall come and are ready for His coming but very few actually would love to see Jesus today.
- B. This is not a love for escaping present troubles, or entering heaven's joys.

V. THE CROWN OF GLORY (1 PETER 5:2-4).

- A. This is earned by those who faithfully oversee the assemblies of God's people, not for earthly advantage but for the spiritual well being of others.
- B.

VI. CROWNS IN HEAVEN

- A. When the church is caught up to heaven (Revelation 4:1-2).
- B. The members shall receive their crowns (Revelation 4:4).
- C. And shall cast their crowns at Jesus' feet (Revelation 4:10).
- D. That He might wear them when He returns to reign (Revelation 19:12).

Note: While salvation is a gift and cannot be lost, rewards are based upon our works and can be forfeited. For example, one may overcome the lusts of the flesh for many years but fall at the last and lose the incorruptible crown. This is the warning of Revelation 3:11.

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PERSONAL NOTES 

Lesson 08

FORNICATION

In 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 we find a comparison of the model Christian's attitude and motivations with those of the Gentiles which know not God. The world's approach to life is unrestrained carnality. The believer's life is to be set apart for God's use and glory.

I. THE MARKS OF A SANCTIFIED LIFE

- A. Abstinance from fornication (v. 3). This is any sexual activity outside the marriage bond.
- B. Conquest of concupiscence (v. 5). This is strong, compelling sexual desire.
- C. Refusal to defraud (v. 6). This is cheating, which includes application to the realm of sexual and personal relationships.
- D. Honorable use of the body (v. 4).
- E. Clean living (v. 7).

II. THE SIN OF FORNICATION

- A. Fornication is a sin against one's own body (1 Corinthians 6:9-20).
- B. Because the Lord will bring vengeance upon such a sinner (4:6).
- C. There is no escaping punishment for this transgression (Hebrews 13:4).
- D. God's wrath is upon the fornicator (Ephesians 5:3-6).

III. CERTAIN VICTORY OVER SEXUAL SIN

- A. Allowing God to control the use of our vessels (v. 4; 2 Corinthians 4:7).
- B. Keeping the body in subjection (1 Corinthians 9:27).
- C. Avoiding that which provokes lust (1 John 2:16).

1. Immodest persons of the opposite gender (Lamentations 3:51).
2. Movies, television, magazines, etc. which portray immodest persons of the opposite gender (Numbers 33:52).
3. Unrestrained thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5).
4. Yielding the body to the control of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16).

IV. THE EXAMPLE OF JOSEPH

- A. Refused the advances of a froward woman (Genesis 37:
- B. Called fornication great wickedness (Genesis 37:
- C. Though no one else present he knew it would be a sin against God (Genesis 37:
- D. Risking his career and even his life he fled fornication (Genesis 37:
- E. God rewarded him with a throne (

Note: Horse sense is knowing when to say “nay”.



PERSONAL NOTES

Lesson 09

THE BIBLICAL WORK ETHIC

While work is a four letter word and one may get dirty while working; work is not a dirty word. God gave man work to do before the fall and shall give saved men work to do in the ages to come. This is the Biblical doctrine of work in this present evil world.

I. THE REASON FOR WORKING

- A. Commanded by God.
- B. Evidence of brotherly love (4:9-11).
- C. To live on the wages of another is stealing (4:12).
- D. That we may have to give to God's ministers ().
- E. To avoid the sins which result from idleness.

II. THE MANNER OF WORKING

- A. Not with a slack hand (Proverbs 10:4).
- B. With all one's might (Ecclesiastes 9:10).
- C. Not with idle hands (Ecclesiastes 10:18).
- D. But willing hands (Ephesians 4:28).
- E. Not to please or impress men (Ephesians 6:6).
- F. But to please God (Colossians 3:22).
- G. Not for temporal riches (1 Timothy 6:8).
- H. But for genuine needs (Philippians 4:19).

III. THE WORK SCHEDULE

- A. God ordained a six day work week ().
- B. And a twelve hour day.

IV. TREATMENT OF THOSE WHO WILL NOT WORK

- A. Mark them as rebels,
- B. Allow them to starve (2 Thessalonians 3:10).
- C. Warn them by the word (2 Thessalonians 3:11-12).

Lesson 10

THE FIRST RESURRECTION

The term first resurrection does not mean there will be a second or third, but is so designated because there is none preceding it. In 1 Corinthians 15 God likens the first resurrection to a harvest. This is because it will have three aspects; the first fruits, the harvest and the gleanings. Each of these produces the same fruit as the others but in varying quantities depending upon the times and seasons. In all three cases there will be a bringing forth from the dead sleeping saints and a catching away of living saints.

I. THE FACT OF A RESURRECTION

- A. Those sleeping in the dust shall awake (Daniel 12:2).
- B. They shall come forth upon hearing the voice of Christ (John 5:28-29).
- C. Both the just and the unjust shall rise (Acts 24:15).

II. THE TIME FACTOR

- A. The ancients believed in a general resurrection at the end of time (John 11:23).
- B. There is a raising exclusively of the just (Luke 20:35-36; 14:14, Hebrews 11:35, 1 Thessalonians 4:16).
- C. The unjust are raised 1,000 years after the harvest ends (Revelation 20:1-5).

III. THE FIRSTFRUITS

- A. At His resurrection Christ appears having not yet ascended (John 20:16-18).
- B. Some saints come out of their graves and walk upon the earth (Matthew 7:50-53).
- C. When Christ ascends He takes with Him the Old Testament saints (Ephesians 4:8-10).

- D. He thus takes both dead and living saints to heaven. This is the Firstfruits of the first resurrection.

IV. THE HARVEST

- A. This is the main in-gathering at the close of the church age (1 Corinthians 15:51-58).
- B. This is the catching away of all those in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

V. THE GLEANINGS

- A. At the beginning of the great tribulation God seals 144,000 witnesses that they die not (Revelation 6:9-11; 7:11-14).
- B. These tribulation saints are found in heaven before the great tribulation ends (Revelation 14:1-3).
- C. There is clearly a catching away of tribulation saints before the second advent (Revelation 11:11-12, Isaiah 26:19-21, Song of Solomon 2:10-13).

Note: Those members of cults and apostate religious bodies will ensnare the Christian by catching him using non-Biblical terminology. We carefully avoid making reference to the “rapture” when dealing with such persons because the term is not found in the Bible. There are clearly three times when God takes dead and living saints to heaven. These comprise one resurrection called the harvest. The Old Testament saints (firstfruits), the Church (the harvest), the tribulation saints (the gleanings): and these three are one.



PERSONAL NOTES

Lesson 11

THE HARVEST

In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 we have a discussion of the second aspect of the first resurrection, i.e. the harvest. This is the calling forth from the dead of the church age saints and the calling forth from the living those saints who are alive and remain.

I. THE HARVEST IS THE BELIEVER'S HOPE (v. 13).

- A. Apart from Christ there is no hope (Ephesians 2:12).
- B. To the saint He is the hope (Titus 2:13).
- C. The believer is awaiting the fulfillment of this hope (Romans 8:24-25).

II. THE SURETY OF THE HARVEST IS CHRIST'S RESURRECTION (v. 14)

- A. He proved Himself the resurrection and the life (John 11:25-26).
- B. To those who beheld Him (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

III. CHRIST WILL DESCEND FROM HEAVEN (v. 16).

- A. When saints look for His appearing (Titus 2:12).
- B. The look is toward heaven (Philippians 3:20).
- C. For this is the location of the believer's life (Colossians 3:4).

IV. THE BELIEVER MEETS CHRIST IN THE AIR (v. 17).

- A. The saint's body of death (Romans 7:24).
- B. Which is vile (Philippians 3:20-21).
- C. Shall be changed into an incorruptible body (1 Corinthians 15:51-53).
- D. Like that of Christ Jesus (1 John 3:2).

Lesson 12

CONTRASTING THE HARVEST AND THE SECOND COMING

The greatest errors in Christendom today stem from the careless teaching of the word of God on the part of ministers. Untold confusion has arisen from the use of the term “The Second Coming” to refer to all matters relating to end time prophecy. Without careful distinction between the Lord’s coming for His church and His coming to the earth much harm has been done.

I. THE HARVEST

- A. Christ comes for His saints (John 14:3).
- B. This is secret, no scripture implies witnesses to this event.
- C. Saints meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17).
- D. The Lord Himself gathers His people (1 Thessalonians 4:16).
- E. No signs!
- F. The resurrection of all in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:23).
- G. Believer’s changed and receive a glorified body (Philippians 3:21).
- H. Christ comes under the figure of the morning star (Revelation 22:16).
- I. This coming is a source of comfort (1 Thessalonians 4:18).
- J. Christ here delivers from wrath (1 Thessalonians 1:10).
- K. Christ comes for His own (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
- L. Here the Lord takes saints and leaves sinners in death (Revelation 20:5).

Lesson 13

PICTURES OF THE CHURCH AGE

There are a number of digressions in the Bible where the main story is interrupted for a parenthetical story. In each of these cases the main figure in the parenthesis is a woman in distress or a woman of disreputable character.

I. THE CHURCH IN BIBLE TYPOLOGY

- A. A bride (Ephesians 5:22-33).
- B. A chaste virgin (2 Corinthians 11:1-4).

II. THE CHURCH IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD

- A. Hated of men (John _____).
- B. Offscouring of the earth (_____).

III. THE PARENTHETICAL STORIES

- A. Tamar (Genesis 38).
In the midst of the story of Joseph the tale is broken to tell of Tamar and her folly.
- B. Rahab (Joshua 2)
The tale of Joshua's conquest of the land is broken to tell of this fallen woman who is saved by her faith.
- C. Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11).
The account of David's campaign against the Ammonites is interrupted to tell of a woman whose sin is put away and who becomes a king's bride.

D. Ruth (Ruth 1-4)

The political history of the Hebrews is broken to tell of a Gentile who forsakes her family gods to find grace in the eyes of the Lord.

E. The Adulteress (John 8)

Jesus breaks one of his discourses to forgive a woman taken in sin.

F. The Dying Woman (Mark 5)

Jesus pauses on His journey to the home of a ruler of the Jews to rescue this desperate woman.

All of these accounts picture a parenthetical time period in which God places His dealings with Israel as a nation on hold while He deals with the church. This time period runs from the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 until the catching away of the purchased bride. At this time God will resume His dealings with Israel as though no intervening time period had ever occurred (Daniel 9:24-27).



PERSONAL NOTES 

Lesson 14

COMPARING WATCHERS AND SLEEPERS

In the first eleven verses of chapter five we have a comparison between those who are looking for the return of the Lord and those who are not.

I. THEIR EXPECTATION DIFFERS

- A. Watchers know the Lord is coming as a thief (v. 2).
A thief takes the valuables and leaves the junk.
- B. The Sleepers expect peace and safety (v.3; Jeremiah 6:14).

II. THE REWARD DIFFERS

- A. Watchers are prepared to obtain salvation from coming wrath (v. 9).
- B. Sleepers shall find sudden destruction, travail and no means of escape (v. 3).

III. THEIR CONDUCT DIFFERS

- A. Watchers are alert and sober (v. 6).
- B. Sleepers are asleep (Romans 11:13) and drunken (vv. 6-7).

IV. THEIR POSSESSIONS DIFFER

- A. Watchers have faith, hope, love, salvation and comfort (vv. 8, 12, Isaiah 59:17).
- B. Sleepers have nothing.

V. THEIR CHARACTER DIFFERS

- A. Watchers are children of the day and light (v. 5).
- B. Sleepers are children of the night and darkness (v. 5).

1. They remain so because they hate the light (John 3:18-21).
2. Which is the word of God (Psalms 110:105, 130).
3. And the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:8-9).

VI. THEIR RELATIONSHIPS DIFFER

- A. Watchers have a union with Christ (v. 10) and with one another (v. 11).
- B. Sleepers, likened to a man in a drunken stupor (v. 7) can enjoy no manner of fellowship.

VII. THEIR WARNING DIFFERS

- A. Watchers are warned not to adopt the practices of the sleepers (Romans 13:11-14).
- B. Sleepers are called upon to repent (Ephesians 5:14).

Note: The term “the day of the Lord” signifies the second advent of Christ, not the catching away of the church. (See Amos 5:18-20, Zephaniah 1:14-18, Joel 2:1-3, Jeremiah 30:7).

Note: Harry Ironside tells of a man who lived in a city of great steel mills. They were constantly pounding, pounding, pounding; twenty-four hours a day. When one asked the man how he could sleep he told them he was used to the noise. Once there was a power failure in the city, the mill work was halted and the man awoke with a start.

The world has grown so used to the sound of the gospel that it has lulled them to sleep. One day the church will be removed and the silence will so jolt the sleepers that they will awaken with a start.

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PERSONAL NOTES 

Lesson 15

A MODEL ASSEMBLY

In chapter five verses twelve through fifteen we have the setting forth of a model assembly. When model Christians meet under model ministers there are certain attitudes and responsibilities which, if practiced, will insure that their gathering is also exemplary of the purposes of God.

I. HIGH ESTEEM FOR AUTHORITY (vv. 12-13).

Those whom God has made to be pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints are to be respected and submitted to by those within the assembly (Ephesians 4:7-12; Hebrews 13:7, 17).

II. PEACE AMONG BRETHREN (v. 13).

This goes hand in hand with point 1, for in most cases an assembly is in conflict when the authority structure is faulty. Peace in a local church can be maintained only by the practice of humility (Philippians 2:3-4).

III. WARNING UNRULY (v. 14).

- A. By preaching against sin (1 Timothy 5:20).
- B. Through personal counsel (Galatians 6:1).
- C. By swift, properly executed discipline (Titus 3:10).

IV. COMFORT THE FEEBLE MINDED (v. 14).

The church, by its nature, will attract the emotionally disturbed. God's church has the only real help for such individuals.

V. SUPPORT THE WEAK (v. 14).

- A. By bearing another's burdens (Galatians 6:2).
- B. By assisting those weak in the faith (Romans 14:1).
- C. By unfailing love toward those in spiritual difficulty or decline (Job 12:5).

VI. PATIENT TOWARD ALL MEN (v. 14).

In considering the points above we could think of numerous occasions in which such persons would try our patience. A local church of Spirit controlled believer's will maintain right relations one with another through all the trials of personal interaction.

VII. NO EVIL FOR EVIL

- A. There can be no place for vengeance (Romans 12:21).

In a close knit group of vastly different individuals there will be hurt feelings, misunderstandings and the like. Forgive and forget!

- B. Take the wrong and let it pass (1 Corinthians 6:7)

VIII. FOLLOW GOOD AMONG YOURSELVES (v. 15).

- A. God is good (Matthew 19:17).
- B. We are called to follow Him (1 Peter 1:21).
- C. This is a call to treat our brethren as they are treated by the Father.

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PERSONAL NOTES 

Lesson 16

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS FROM 5:16-28

Verse 18 This is often taught as meaning all things in one's life are God's will but many are reaping what one has sown AGAINST the will of God. More accurate interpretation, in light of all related scriptures, is that it is God's will that we give thanks in all things.

Verse 19 To quench means to cool or to make subside.

Verse 20 To prophesy means simply to utter as by divine inspiration and has fore-telling as a secondary meaning. The Biblical definition is found in 1 Corinthians 14:4.

Verse 21 Compare with 1 John 4:1 and Romans 3:4.

Verse 22 If something is doubtful it is dirty. If something will be perceived by weak brethren or lost men as inconsistent with Christian conduct the child of God should leave it alone. If the eye is single it will not rest upon that which looks evil. The ultimate consideration is not liberty but testimony (Romans 14:13, 21).

Verse 23 Man's being made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) is a reference to his tripartite nature. The moral image was lost in the fall but the physical image was retained (James 3:9, 1 Corinthians 11:7).

Verse 25 Everything depends on prayer!

Lesson 17

HOLD FAST

Here is a simple study in which we shall run the admonition “hold fast” through the course of the Bible. Such word and phrase studies are always most profitable for the child of God.

I. HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD (1 THESSALONIANS 5:21).

- A. The unity of the saints (Psalms 133:1).
- B. Sound doctrine (Proverbs 4:2).
- C. A chosen spouse (Proverbs 18:22).
- D. A clean conscience (1 Timothy 1:5).

II. REWARDS ALREADY EARNED (REVELATION 3:10).

- A. Salvation cannot be taken away for it is the work of God (Ecclesiastes 3:14, John 10:27-30).
- B. Rewards can be forfeited (2 John 8, Colossians 2:18).

III. THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS (2 TIMOTHY 1:13).

- A. The truth is to be spoken in love (Ephesians 4:15).
- B. It is to be spoken with meekness (2 Timothy 2:25).
- C. It is to be spoken plainly (2 Corinthians 3:12).

We must speak sound words in a form and fashion that is Holy Spirit controlled if we desire genuine fruit.

IV. THE FAITHFUL WORD (TITUS 1:9)

- A. We must not corrupt the word (2 Corinthians 2:17)
- B. We must not cast doubt upon the word (Genesis 3:1).
- C. We must not alter the word (Revelation 22:18-19).

Lesson 18

SANCTIFICATION

Biblical sanctification has a dual aspect. It is a separation from sin and unto God. Either one without the other is not true sanctification.

I. THE TRUE MAKEUP OF MAN

- A. God is a tripartite being (1 John 5:7).
- B. Man is made in God's image (Genesis 1:26).
- C. Thus, man is a tripartite being (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

II. THE WORK OF SANCTIFICATION

- A. It is accomplished by the Father (Jude 1).
- B. It is accomplished by the Son (Hebrews 10:10).
- C. It is accomplished by the Holy Ghost (Romans 15:16).

III. HOW ONE IS SANCTIFIED

- A. By faith (Acts 26:18).
- B. In the word of God (John 17:17).
 - 1. The word tells of the sanctifying blood (Hebrews 13:12).
 - 2. Which makes one clean (Ephesians 5:26).

IV. THE RESULTS OF SANCTIFICATION

- A. One is set apart by the Spirit for a gospel appeal prior to salvation (1 Peter 1:2, 2 Thessalonians 2:13).

Appendix

Chapter 2 verses 14-16 set forth the reason for the horrid history of the Jewish people since the time of Christ.

They killed their prophets (Luke 20:9-12) and the Prince of life (Acts 3:13-15; Luke 20:13-15). They were moved by Satan to request that the blood-guiltiness for the murder of Jesus Christ be placed upon themselves and upon their children (Matthew 27:25).

By this appeal they sentenced themselves to death by the decree of their own law (Numbers 35:33).

They added to their iniquity by killing the apostles who called them to repentance (Acts 7:51-60).

There is no way to explain the sacking of Jerusalem by Titus in 70 AD; the persecution of the Jews through the Middle Ages by the papacy; or the near extermination of European Jewry by Hitler and Stalin, apart from these Biblical truths.

When God promised the uttermost of His wrath upon the murderers of His Son (verse 16), He was not making an idle threat. (See Amos 9:7-10).

They know not what they do takes them out of realm of murder and into manslaughter, or none could ever be saved.

Thessalonica remained one of the chief strongholds of Christianity for many centuries. It was known as "The Orthodox City" not only for the tenacity of its resistance to attacks by Barbarous races but by being largely responsible for their conversion to Christ.