

Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on the Book of 1 Thessalonians

by David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The class book is suitable for teens and up. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge students to study to understand Scripture.

Enough questions are included for teachers to assign as many questions as they want for each study session. Studies may proceed at whatever speed and depth will best accomplish the needs of the students.

Questions labeled “think” are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned. When questions refer to a map, students should consult maps in a Bible dictionary or similar reference work or in the back of their Bibles. (Note: My abbreviation “**b/c/v**” means “book, chapter, and verse.”)

For class instruction, I urge teachers to assign the questions as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves. Let the teacher use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive discussion, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered “correctly.” Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: “Joe, will you answer number 1?” “Sue, what about number 2?” Etc.

I also urge students to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over “What did the author mean by question #5?” My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on.

The questions are not intended just to help students understand the Scriptures. They are also designed to help students learn good principles of Bible study. Good Bible study requires defining the meaning of keywords, studying parallel passages, explaining the meaning of the text clearly, making applications, and defending the truth as well as exposing religious error. I have included questions to encourage students to practice all these study principles.

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

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Assignments on 1 Thessalonians 1

Please read the whole book of 1 Thessalonians at least once as we study chapter 1. Answer the following questions on chap. 1.

1. Who wrote this letter, and to whom is it addressed – 1:1?
2. List some things you know about Paul.
3. List some things you know about Timothy.
4. List some things you know about Silvanus.
5. Where can we read about the establishment of the church in Thessalonica? Describe the history of the establishment of the church there.

6. **Special Assignment:** If possible, provide information about the city of Thessalonica. (Check Bible dictionaries or similar reference works for information.)

7. After you have read the whole epistle, state the theme of the book.

8. **Define** the word “church” and explain how the word is used in the New Testament.

9. **Case Study:** Explain how the New Testament concept of the church differs from what many people today think about the church.

10. What did Paul remember about the Thessalonians when he prayed for them – 1:2,3?

11. **Case Study:** Some churches teach that we are saved by faith alone without works. Explain and prove the Bible teaching about the relationship between works and faith.

12. **Application:** Explain the relationship between love and labor. What lessons should we learn for our own service to God?

13. **Special Assignment:** Explain the relationship between patience and hope.

14. What else did Paul know about the church in Thessalonica – 1:4? List other **passages** about the New Testament teaching about election.

15. **Case Study:** Calvinism teaches that we were unconditionally chosen by God to salvation or condemnation before the world began. Explain the New Testament teaching about election according to the gospel, and prove by Scripture whether it is conditional or unconditional.

16. How did the gospel come to the Thessalonians according to 1:5? Explain the significance of the gospel coming in word and in power.

17. Explain the significance of the gospel coming in the Holy Spirit and in assurance.

18. In what sense should Christians be followers of inspired teachers and of the Lord – 1:6? What can we learn about the importance of following Biblical examples?

19. How had the Thessalonians received the gospel? What affliction do we know about in the history of the beginning of the church in Thessalonica? (Think: How can we have joy even in affliction?)

20. What had the Thessalonians done after they received the word – 1:7? List other **passages** about the example Christians should set.

21. **Application:** What lessons should we learn about our own examples?

22. Where had they made known the gospel – 1:8? Describe the regions referred to here (see a **map**).

23. List other **passages** about the importance of Christians teaching the gospel to others.

24. **Application:** What applications should we make in our own lives about our responsibility to teach others?

25. What effect did the preaching of the gospel have among the Thessalonians – 1:9? What does this tell us about the background of the Christians in Thessalonica?

26. **Special Assignment:** List other **passages** about idolatry. What can we learn about the nature of the true God in comparison to idols?

27. For what were the Thessalonians waiting – 1:10? List other **passages** about Jesus' second coming.

28. What had God done for Jesus according to 1:10? Why is this important to our own salvation?

29. What has Jesus done that should lead us to serve Him according to 1:10?

Assignments on 1 Thessalonians 2

Please read the whole book of 1 Thessalonians again as we study chapter 2. Answer the following questions on chap. 2.

1. How did Paul describe their coming to the Thessalonians in 2:1? Explain the sense in which this was true.

2. Describe the spiteful treatment they had received at Philippi. Give book, chapter, and verse.

3. Despite this shameful treatment, how had they taught in Thessalonica? What should we learn about our own teaching?

4. What did not characterize the teaching that Paul did – 10:3? Whose teaching often is characterized in these ways?

5. Define each of these characteristics and explain why they should not characterize our teaching today.

6. What does Paul state about the origin of his teaching in 2:4? Why is this important?

7. **Application:** Whom did Paul especially seek to please in his teaching? What lessons should we learn for our own teaching?

8. What else did not characterize the teaching of Paul – 2:5? Describe how teachers are sometimes guilty of these things today.

9. What did not motivate Paul according to 2:6? List other related **passages**. (Think: How does this relate to verse 4?)

10. How did Paul treat them according to 2:7? Explain the illustration.

11. How devoted was Paul to their well-being according to 2:8? What reason does he give for his concern for them? (Think: How had Paul demonstrated this degree of concern for them?)

12. What would the Thessalonians remember about Paul's conduct among them according to 2:9? Explain the meaning.

13. **Special Assignment:** List other *passages* about how preachers may receive income. May preachers receive financial support from churches? Explain.

14. How did Paul behave himself among them according to 2:10? How did the Thessalonians know this to be true?

15. Define each of these terms Paul uses in verse 10 to describe his conduct. Why is such conduct important in Christians, especially those who teach the word?

16. What terms does Paul use in 2:11 to describe his teaching among them? What can we learn about the work of teachers?

17. What illustration does Paul use to describe his work in 2:11? Explain the illustration. (Think: Explain the connection to verse 7.)

18. What was the goal of Paul's teaching according to 2:12? What should we learn?

19. How had the Thessalonians received the word according to 2:13? List other *passages* that show the gospel is the word of God, not just the inventions of men.

20. **Application:** Explain why is it important for people to recognize the gospel is God's word, not just the word of men. What problems result when people fail to truly appreciate the gospel as God's word?

21. Whom did the Thessalonian church imitate – 2:14? In what way did they imitate them?
22. What accusations did Paul make against the Judeans – 2:15?
23. List some specific examples in which the Jews were guilty of the things Paul accused them of here.
24. What did this subject have to do with the salvation of the Gentiles – 2:16? (Think: Why might the Jews have acted this way regarding the salvation of the Gentiles?)
25. How had this attitude of the Jews been demonstrated when Paul was preaching in Thessalonica?
26. In what sense was Paul separated from the Thessalonians – 2:17? What does he mean by this?
27. According to the account in Acts, what had caused this separation? (Think: In what way would this have caused problems for the Christians in Thessalonica and caused concerns for Paul?)
28. What did Paul say that he still wanted to do – 2:17,18? Why had he been unsuccessful?
29. Even now, how did Paul view the Thessalonians – 2:19,20? (Think: Why might Paul feel the need to reassure the Thessalonians this is how he viewed them?)
30. Explain the sense in which Paul's statements here would be true of his view of the Christians at Thessalonica.

Assignments on 1 Thessalonians 3

Please read the whole book of 1 Thessalonians again as we study chapter 3. Answer the following questions on chap. 3.

1. What decision did Paul make according to 3:1,2? Where was he at the time? (Think: Why would this decision have been difficult for Paul?)

2. How is Timothy described in 3:2? How does this differ from the way denominational preachers are often described today?

3. What reasons are given why Timothy was sent to Thessalonica – 3:2,3? Considering the circumstances of the church in Thessalonica, why was Timothy's visit important?

4. What can we learn from these verses about the work of gospel preachers?

5. **Application:** What can we learn from these verses about suffering for the cause of Christ – 3:3,4? In what sense is it true that we are appointed to this?

6. Explain why it is helpful for Christians to know ahead of time that the cause of Christ is going to require sacrifice and hardship.

7. According to 3:5, what concerns motivated Paul in sending Timothy? Explain.

8. What can we learn from these verses about the possibility of a child of God so sinning as to be lost?

9. What can we learn from these verses about Satan and his work in our lives?

10. What report had Timothy brought about the Thessalonians – 3:6? How did the Thessalonians view the apostle Paul?

11. How did Paul respond to Timothy's report – 3:7? (Think: Why would this report have been so important to Paul?)

12. How important was the faithfulness of the Thessalonians to Paul – 3:8? What can we learn from this about the concern teachers should have for those that they teach?

13. According to 3:9, how did Paul respond to the news that Timothy had brought about the Thessalonians?

14. What prayer did Paul offer regarding the Thessalonians – 3:10? (Think: What can we learn about prayer from this verse?)

15. Based on what we know about the background of the Thessalonians, why might their faith have been lacking? Based on other Scriptures, how could Paul help perfect their faith?

16. What wish did Paul express in 3:11? How does this relate to verse 10?

17. What did he hope for them according to 3:12? (Think: Why had Paul emphasized throughout this section his care and concern for the Thessalonians?)

18. List other *passages* about the importance of Christians loving one another.

19. What hope did Paul express in 3:13? **Define** "blameless." Why is this quality important to Christians?

20. **Define** "holiness." Why is this quality important to Christians?

Assignments on 1 Thessalonians 4

Please read the whole book of 1 Thessalonians again as we study chapter 4. Answer the following questions on chap. 4.

1. What exhortation did Paul give to the Thessalonians in 4:1? How did this relate to instructions that Paul had previously given them?

2. What goals should Christians pursue according to 4:1? Discuss the importance of pleasing God and of abounding in our walk for Him.

3. What were they aware of according to 4:2? What authority did Paul claim for his teachings?

4. In particular, what did the will of God require of them – 4:3? **Define** sanctification.

5. What conduct specifically must they avoid in order to please God and follow His will? Explain the importance of the instruction to abstain from such conduct.

6. List other **passages** about fornication.

7. **Special Assignment: Define** fornication. Give specific examples of what is required of us in order to abstain from fornication.

8. What vessel is referred to in 4:4? Explain what it means to possess your vessel in sanctification and honor.

9. Whose conduct should they avoid – 4:5? How does such conduct fit the definition of passion of lust?

10. Describe ways that one might be guilty of defrauding his brother in this matter – 4:6?

11. What reason is given why we should avoid such conduct?

12. Application: Describe how our society fits the description here of the conduct of those who do not know God.

13. How does such conduct violate our calling – 4:7? Explain.

14. **Define** uncleanness and holiness.

15. What is the consequence of rejecting this teaching according to 4:8? What does this claim about the source and authority of Paul's teachings?

16. What subject does Paul introduce in 4:9? What does this say about their previous knowledge of the subject?

17. List other **passages** about love of the brethren.

18. Toward whom had the Thessalonians demonstrated love – 4:10? So what did Paul want them to do even though they did have love for the brethren?

19. How should Christians live according to 4:11? What reasons are given for such a life according to 4:12?

20. What does it mean to lead a quiet life? What characterizes a quiet life in contrast to one that is not quiet, as Paul refers to it here?

21. List other **passages** about meddling in the affairs of others. What problems can be caused by failing to mind one's own business?

22. **Application:** List other **passages** about the importance of working with one's hands. What consequences follow from laziness and idleness?

23. List other **passages** about the importance of a good influence on others. Give reasons why our conduct before the world matters.

24. What subject is discussed beginning in 4:13? What is meant by those who are asleep?

25. What problems characterize those who are lost? Why do such people have reason for sorrow? (Think: Is Paul saying that it is wrong for us to grieve when loved ones die? Explain.)

26. What assurance does Paul give about those who sleep in Jesus – 4:14? By what authority does he speak?

27. List other **passages** about the resurrection of the dead. How does our resurrection relate to that of Jesus?

28. In 4:15, what does Paul explain about those who have died as compared to those who still remain when Jesus returns? In what way might this give assurance to the Thessalonians? (Note: The word “prevent,” as used in the KJV, has changed meanings over the centuries. Check newer translations.)

29. How is the coming of the Lord described in 4:16? List other *passages* that describe Jesus’ second coming.

30. What two groups of people are described in 4:15-17? Are lost sinners under consideration in this context, either dead or alive?

31. When Christ returns, what will happen to the dead in Christ – 4:16,17? What will happen to those who are still alive?

32. What will then be the destiny of those who have been raised from the dead or who are alive and meet the Lord? What does this tell us about the eternal destiny of the righteous?

33. List other *passages* that show what will be the eternal destiny of those who are righteous.

34. What does the Bible say will happen to the earth when Jesus returns – 2 Peter 3:1-13? According to John 5:28,29 and Acts 24:15, when will the resurrection of the wicked be in relationship to the resurrection of the righteous?

35. **Case Study:** Premillennial folks claim these verses are teaching that the dead in Christ will be raised when Jesus returns, but the wicked dead will not be raised until thousand years later. Prove whether or not this doctrine is correct, and explain what these verses really teach.

36. According to 4:18, what benefit can these teachings be to us? Explain how this gives us comfort.

Assignments on 1 Thessalonians 5

Please read the whole book of 1 Thessalonians again as we study chapter 5. Answer the following questions on chap. 5.

1. What subject is discussed beginning in 5:1? To what does the expression “day of the Lord” refer – 5:2?

2. How is the coming of Jesus described in 5:2? Explain the point.

3. List other *passages* showing what the Bible teaches about when Jesus will come.

4. What will people be saying when Jesus comes – 5:3? What will come upon them instead? (Think: What people are referred to by the word “they” in this verse?)

5. Explain the illustration used in verse 3.

6. **Case Study:** Many teachers throughout recent history have tried to set dates for Jesus’ return. What can we learn about such efforts according to Scripture?

7. What different group of people is described beginning in 5:4? How will this day affect them differently from others?

8. What makes the difference between how this day overtakes these two groups of people according to 5:5? What is meant by the expressions “sons of light” and “sons of the day”?

9. **Define** sober. Explain the significance in this context.

10. What lesson does Paul intend for us to learn according 5:6?

11. When do people usually sleep or get drunk – 5:7? Why?

12. In contrast, if we are of the day, what should we do – 5:8? How does this fit Paul's discussion in the context about light and darkness?

13. What protection should we put on – 5:8? What other **passages** talk about spiritual armor as protection?

14. **Special Assignment:** Explain how each of the three spiritual qualities listed in verse 8 serves to give us protection. Where else in Scripture do we find these three qualities listed together?

15. Explain the contrast between drunken in verse 7 and sober in verse 8. What secondary application can we make to drinking alcoholic beverages?

16. To what are we appointed and not appointed – 5:9? What did Christ do to make this possible – 5:10?

17. How does Paul describe the people who can benefit from this appointment of God in 5:10? How does this relate to the context?

18. What destiny should we receive through Christ – 5:10? Where will Christ live in eternity (note the connection to 4:17)?

19. **Special Assignment:** List other passages about the eternal destiny of the righteous. Use these passages to explain what that destiny will be.

20. In what ways can a proper understanding of Jesus' coming benefit God's people – 5:11? Explain.

21. According to 5:12,13, whom should we recognize or esteem? What can we learn about the work that these people ought to do?

22. What group of people is Paul talking about here? List other *passages* that demonstrate your answer to be correct.

23. List the responsibilities that these people have according to the Scriptures. Prove your answers by Scripture.

24. Explain why these people deserve to be recognized and esteemed. What does Paul say about how Christians should relate to one another in 5:13?

25. **Special Assignment: Define** each of the categories of people listed in 5:14. For each one, describe how it should be treated.

26. What should characterize our treatment of all of these people? Why do all of these people need to be treated in this way?

27. How should we not treat anyone – 5:15? List other similar *passages*.

28. **Application:** Instead of taking personal vengeance, how should we treat everyone? What lessons should we learn, and how does this differ from most people's natural reaction?

29. What should always characterize us according to 5:16? Why would this be difficult for the Thessalonians under their circumstances?

30. List other *passages* about joy.

31. How does Paul describe our diligence in prayer in 5:17? List other **passages** that describe how frequently or how diligently we should pray.

32. **Application:** Does this passage teach that we must be praying 100 percent of the time? Prove your answer. Explain the proper application.

33. What quality should characterize our life according to 5:18? List other **passages** about the importance of giving thanks.

34. Explain the sense in which we can always be thankful. How could the Thessalonians be thankful even when they were being persecuted?

35. What instruction is given in 5:19? Explain how people might be guilty of doing this.

36. What is forbidden in 5:20? **Define** prophecy.

37. How might people be guilty of despising prophecies? How does this relate to verse 19?

38. **Case Study:** Some people use passages like verses 19,20 to claim that spiritual gifts still exist today, and we are guilty of quenching the Spirit and despising prophecies if we deny these gifts still exist. How would you respond?

39. List various translations of 5:21, and explain what it means to “prove all things” (KJV).

40. Explain what standard or what method we should use to put things to the test. List other similar **passages**.

41. What should we do when we determine something to be good – 5:21? What applications should we make?

42. What should we do when we determine something to be evil – 5:22? What applications should we make? (Note: Study this passage in various translations.)

43. **Define** sanctify – 5:23. List other **passages** that describe how we are sanctified.

44. When do we ultimately need to be blameless? What assurance do we have that God will help us toward that goal – 5:24?

45. What request did Paul make in 5:25? Why is it important to pray for those who preach the gospel?

46. How did Paul suggest that they greet one another in 5:26? List other similar **passages**.

47. List other **passages** elsewhere that describe kissing in ancient societies. What can we learn from these verses? (List other common forms of social customs from that day.)

48. **Special Assignment:** Is Paul here establishing a required ritual for Christians, or is he simply regulating an existing social custom? (Note: Compare 1 Peter 2:17. What if we have a president, instead of a king? Did other forms of acceptable greetings exist in those days?)

49. What did Paul want done according to 5:27? Why would this be important?

50. What can we learn about the nature of Scripture (the written word) from the way that it was used in the early church?

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