



## Bible Books Book by Book Series

# FIRST THESSALONIANS

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

### Course Text: First Thessalonians

The book of 1st Thessalonians is considered by many to be the first letter written by Paul. Of course, we do not know for sure. Before we study the book itself, we will take a look at the story of the founding of the church at Thessalonica, as reported in Acts 17.

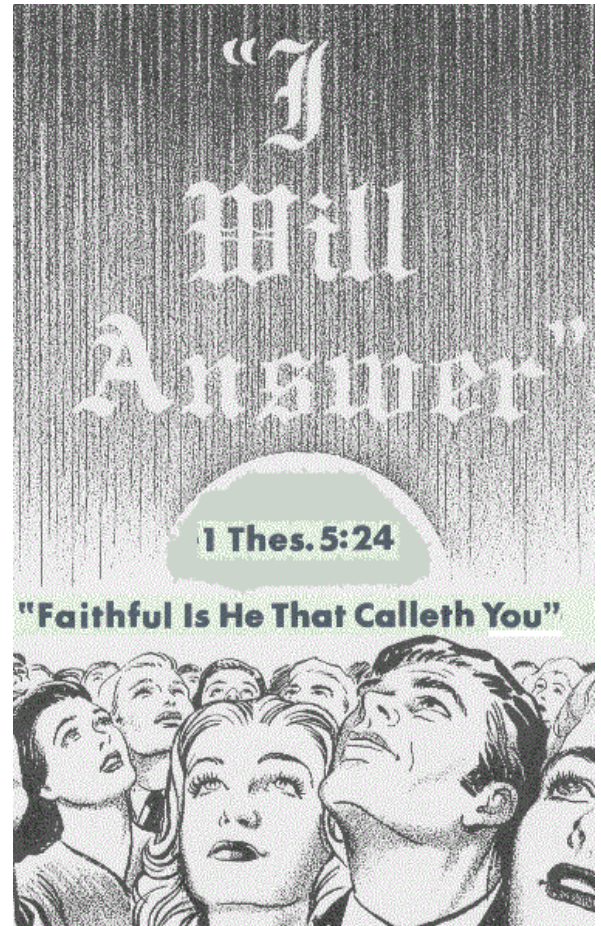
Paul is very pleased at the reports he has been receiving about how the Thessalonians are behaving themselves. As pleased as Paul was with the report about the Thessalonians, he encouraged them to do even better. He reminds them of all the commandments of God. He reminded them of the blessed hope we have of the coming of Jesus Christ. He also explains how to be humble and caring because they caused havoc before. He wrote to live right and be sober to the coming of Jesus.

First Thessalonians is also a doctrinal book about the Second Coming of Christ. The Thessalonians were followers of the Lord having received the Word in much affliction with the joy of the Holy Spirit. They were found with works of faith, labors of love and patience of hope in Christ and they were given this revelation about the second coming events so that they "may have lack of nothing" as said in Chap. 4:12. When we stand on God's Word and stay committed we can expect more revelation from His Word.

### Suggested methodology:

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on page 7. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the First Thessalonians.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about an hour.



## Copyright Information

All content of this training course not attributed to others is copyrighted, including questions, formatting, and explanatory text. **Copyright © 2014 by Thor F. Carden. All rights reserved.**

Course Logo by Troy Cunningham Copyright © 2014 by Troy Cunningham. All rights reserved. Used by permission. <http://www.lovebiblestudy.com/Troy/art.htm>

Illustration by Jack Hamm were placed in the public domain by the artist as long as they are used to further the gospel. <http://www.gbfc-tx.org/Pages/Jack%20Hamm.html>

Illustration by Jeff Larson Copyright © 2000-2014. All rights reserved. Used by permission. <http://www.thebackpew.com>

Illustration by Michael D Waters Copyright © 2006-2009. All rights reserved. Used by permission. <http://www.joyfultoons.com>

**NASB** or **NASV** (New American Standard Bible) Unless otherwise noted, scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

**NIV** (New International Version) Scripture taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

## ----- PRICE INFORMATION -----

This material is provided at no cost to those in jail or prison. If you are not incarcerated you have permission to print and copy these course materials as much as you like as long as you make payment for their use and keep this page intact with the contents. This is not free, except to those who are in jail or prison, and although we are a ministry, we are not a non-profit organization. We expect to be paid, to help finance our ministry to the incarcerated. We suggest two different ways of determining the price.

(1) Take up an offering from the students at the end of the course, and send it to us.

**OR**

(2) Pray about it and pay us what God tells you to send.

Of course, we have designed the website so that there is nothing to stop you from just downloading and printing the course. If you think it is worth nothing, why are you using it? If you think God would have you take or teach this course and you have no money to pay for it, I urge you to reconsider. If God does not want you to use this course He might be trying to let you know that by withholding funds. Or He might have some other purpose, like teaching you to humbly ask somebody else to fund it. Or maybe something else, but if we worship the same God, He would not have you just take it without regard to our wishes. We hope to make enough money to continue producing and providing these lessons. If God does not bless this ministry with financial encouragement, we will take that as pretty strong evidence He does not want us to make any more of these lessons available.

We prefer that you mail us a check, but you may also pay by credit card via PayPal.

Love Bible Study

PO Box 1075

Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1075

Paypal information at

<http://www.LoveBibleStudy.com/price.htm>

## Acts 17:1-15 & First Thessalonians Chapters 1 to 2

**Acts 17** Acts 17:1 reports a journey of about 100 miles along the great Roman highway known as the Egnatian Way. It probably took about three days from Philippi to Thessalonica, with Amphipolis and Apollonia being the towns, where they spent the night. Thessalonica was on the sea coast, was the largest city in, and the capital city of, the Roman province of Macedonia. Paul and his missionary team made many converts over a period of several months, not only among the Jews during the first three weeks, but among the general population of the city as time went by. I believe that the gospel Paul preached, and the evidence he gave, was most similar to the contents of the Gospel of Luke, because Luke was a disciple of Paul. When the Jews, who did not convert to Christianity, saw Paul's success, they became jealous and angry. They made so much trouble for Paul, that on the advice of the people of the church, he went to Berea, a small rural town about 50 miles away. The Jews were so angry at him, that when they heard, that he was there, they tried to make trouble for him there as well.

Please read Acts 17:1-15 and answer the following questions:

[AA] Paul gave evidence that Jesus was who? \_\_\_\_\_

[AB] In whose house did Paul probably stay while he was in Thessalonica? \_\_\_\_\_

[AC] Where did Paul go after he left Berea? \_\_\_\_\_

**1st Thessalonians 1** Paul starts out by referring to the difficult beginning the church had and complimenting them on being truly committed believers. Paul's evidence for this is the impact their witness has made on the entire province and beyond.

Please read 1 Thessalonians Chapter 1 and answer the following questions:

[1A] Besides Paul, who else wrote 1st Thessalonians? \_\_\_\_\_

[1B] Who did the Thessalonians imitate? \_\_\_\_\_

[1C] What does Jesus rescue us from? \_\_\_\_\_

**1st Thessalonians 2** Paul's mistreatment in Philippi, described in Acts 16, is mentioned, and then he talks about some of what happened in Acts 17, which we read above. He reminds them, that he paid his own expenses, while he was among them. Paul expressed gratitude for those that received the word of God, and began to live by it, in spite of the violent resistance of some people of the city.

Please read 1st Thessalonians Chapter 2 and answer the following questions:

[2A] Where had Paul been right before he went to Thessalonica? \_\_\_\_\_

[2B] To what does Paul compare his behavior towards the Thessalonians? \_\_\_\_\_

[2C] What did Paul proclaim to the Thessalonians? \_\_\_\_\_

[2D] In what way were the Thessalonians like the other churches of God? \_\_\_\_\_

[2E] Who did Paul blame for not being able to visit the Thessalonians? \_\_\_\_\_

----- ANSWERS -----

[AA] Paul gave evidence that Jesus was who? The Christ Acts 17:3

[AB] In whose house did Paul probably stay while he was in Thessalonica? Jason Acts 17:5-6

[AC] Where did Paul go after he left Berea? Athens Acts 17:15

[1A] Besides Paul, who else wrote 1st Thessalonians? Silvanus and Timothy 1Th 1:1

[1B] Who did the Thessalonians imitate? Paul, his missionary team and the Lord 1Th 1:6

[1C] What does Jesus rescue us from? The wrath to come 1Th 1:10

[2A] Where had Paul been right before he went to Thessalonica? Philippi. 1Th 2:2

[2B] To what does Paul compare his behavior towards the Thessalonians? A nursing mother 1Th 2:7

[2C] What did Paul proclaim to the Thessalonians? Gospel of God 1Th 2:9

[2D] In what way were the Thessalonians like the other churches of God? Sufferings 1Th 2:14

[2E] Who did Paul blame for not being able to visit the Thessalonians? Satan 1Th 2:18

**The Back Pew - Jeff Larson**



He will come with his mighty terminator angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction, **1 Thee 1:8,9**  
**SCI-FI Translation**

## First Thessalonians Chapters 3 to 5

**1st Thessalonians 3** Paul was concerned about the Thessalonians were doing in his absence and that they might be upset about rumors that may have reached him concerning his afflictions. When he got word that they were doing well he rejoiced in the Lord and complimented the Thessalonians.

Please read 1st Thessalonians Chapter 3 and answer the following questions:

[3A] Who did Paul send from Athens to Thessalonica? \_\_\_\_\_

[3B] What good news did this messenger return to Paul with? \_\_\_\_\_

[3C] Paul prayed that God the Father and the Lord Jesus would direct his path or way where? \_\_\_\_\_

---

**1st Thessalonians 4** As pleased as Paul was with the report about the Thessalonians, he encouraged them to do even better. He reminds them of all the commandments of God in general and sexual immorality and fraud in particular. He reminded them of the blessed hope we have of the coming of Jesus Christ and gave a few details about it.

Please read 1 Thessalonians Chapter 4 and answer the following questions:

[4A] Disobedience is a rejection of whom? \_\_\_\_\_

[4B] What ambition or life goals did Paul suggest for his readers? \_\_\_\_\_

---

[4C] Who will come down from heaven with a shout? \_\_\_\_\_

[4D] Who will rise from the dead first? \_\_\_\_\_

[4E] Where will the living and the risen meet the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

[4F] How long will we stay with the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_

---

**1st Thessalonians 5** Paul describes the kind of time it will be when the Lord returns. Paul tells us what kind of attitude those expecting the Lord to return soon should have. Paul urges his readers to appreciate their spiritual leaders and gives a list of specific behaviors he expects of us.

Please read 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5 and answer the following questions:

[5A] How will the day of the Lord come? \_\_\_\_\_

[5B] We are not of the darkness but of what? \_\_\_\_\_

[5C] What were the Thessalonians doing that Paul wanted them to continue? \_\_\_\_\_

---

[5D] How often are we to rejoice? \_\_\_\_\_

[5E] How often are we to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

[5F] Which kinds of evil are we to avoid? \_\_\_\_\_

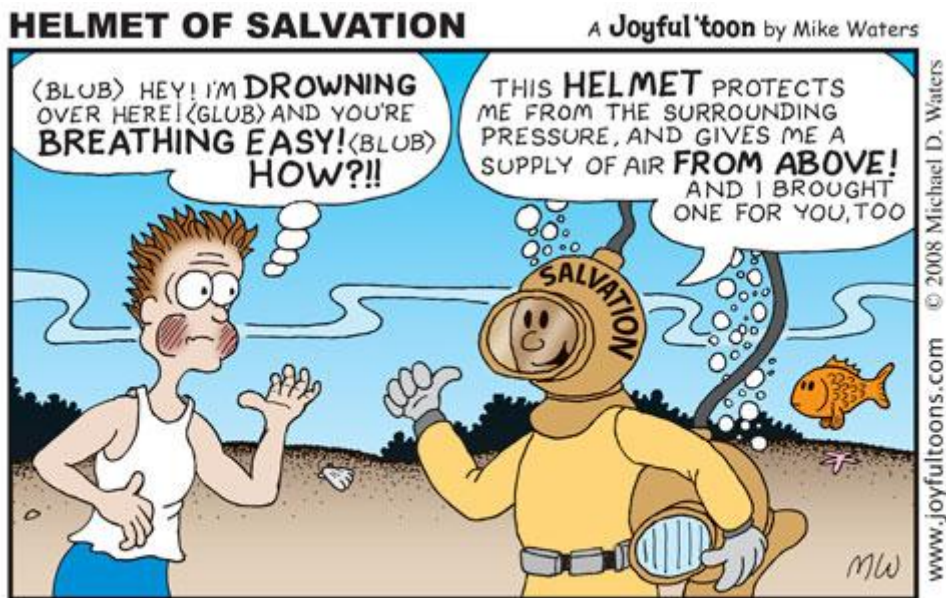
[5G] What are we to examine carefully? \_\_\_\_\_

---

----- ANSWERS -----

- [4A] Disobedience is a rejection of whom? God, not man 1Th 4:8  
[4B] What ambition or life goals did Paul suggest for his readers?  
A quiet life, tending to their own business, and working with their hands 1Th 4:11  
[4C] Who will come down from heaven with a shout? The Lord 1Th 4:16  
[4D] Who will rise from the dead first? The dead in Christ 1Th 4:16  
[4E] Where will the living and the risen meet the Lord? In the clouds in the air 1Th 4:17  
[4F] How long will we stay with the Lord? Forever 1Th 4:17

- [5A] How will the day of the Lord come? Like a thief in the night 1Th 5:2  
[5B] We are not of the darkness but of the day. 1Th 5:5 & 8  
[5C] What were the Thessalonians doing that Paul wanted them to continue?  
Encouraging each other and building each other up 1Th 5:11  
[5D] How often are we to rejoice? Always 1Th 5:16  
[5E] How often are we to pray? All the time 1Th 5:17  
[5F] Which kinds of evil are we to avoid? All of them 1Th 5:22  
[5G] What are we to examine carefully? Everything 1Th 5:21



But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.  
- 1 THESSALONIANS 5:8 NIV

(1) How were the Bereans different than the Thessalonians? (Acts 17:11) Which are you more like?

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

(2) What does First Thessalonians tell us about the end times?

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

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

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

(4) If someone asked you what First Thessalonians was about what would you say?

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

(5) How can the lessons of First Thessalonians be applied to our own life?

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

(6) Which verse or passage would you select to memorize from First Thessalonians? Why?

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

If you have any questions about First Thessalonians, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

**(1) Berean Diligence:** The Bereans were more noble minded than the Thessalonians because they searched the Scriptures to find the truth. How often do we compare what people say to the scriptures to see if they are true? In our lessons the writer is often claiming that the scriptures say this or that. How often do you look the scripture up to make sure he is telling the truth? He is no liar, especially about God's word, but anyone can make a mistake.

**(2) Last Days:** The passages that talk about end times in First Thessalonians are 4:13-18 and 5:1-10. Here is how I analyze it:

4:13 We should not be ignorant about dead people

4:14 Jesus won the victory over death

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

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

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

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

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."

5:4-10 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.

**(3) Unceasing Prayer:** Prayer is so powerful. Pray for other people, even make a list. Pray at any time of day but also try to make it at a certain time each day and be faithful with it. Habitual prayer is *way better* than no prayer at all. Most people do not pray much. Obviously, Paul did not mean for us to stay "on our knees" in prayer all the time—: he took time to write letters to the Churches. But we can talk and live in the "presence" of God all the time. Prayer was constantly on Paul's mind. Also giving thanks in every situation. (not for every situation). We can get to a point that our thoughts are prayers. It's just communing with God on the thought level.

**(4) First Thessalonians Summary** First Thessalonians is a letter of encouragement and exhortation from Pastor Paul to his former congregation. It is also a doctrinal book about the Second Coming of Christ. The Thessalonians were followers of the Lord having received the Word in much affliction with the joy of the Holy Spirit. They were found with works of faith, labors of love and patience of hope in Christ and they were given this revelation about the second coming events so that they "may have lack of nothing" as said in Chap. 4:12. When we stand on God's Word and stay committed we can expect more revelation from His Word.

**(5) First Thessalonians Life Application** Paul is very pleased at the reports he has been receiving about how the Thessalonians are behaving themselves. As pleased as Paul was with the report about the Thessalonians, he encouraged them to do even better. He reminds them of all the commandments of God. He reminded them of the blessed hope we have of the coming of Jesus Christ. He also explains how to be humble and caring because they caused havoc before. He wrote to live right and be sober to the coming of Jesus.

**(6) Something to Remember** Ever since I read the story about Laubach who tried to actually pray all the time and ended up helping a hundred million adults learn how to read, 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:17 has been a favorite of mine. "Pray without ceasing." Some people find memorizing the Bible easier than others do. Memorizing Bible verses does help us in our Worship, Walk, and Work for God. as it says in Psalm 119.11.