

The Teachings of 1 Thessalonians

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The Teachings of 1 Thessalonians

by Jonathan Cooper

First Edition on 8/1/2025

Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
4/29/2024

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1 Thessalonians 1

1 Thessalonians 1:1: "Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

- This letter was written to the Thessalonian church.
- This letter was written by Paul.
- This letter was also written by Silvanus.
- This letter was also written by Timothy.
- In Paul's time there was a church in Thessalonica.
- The church is in God the Father.
- God is our Father.
- The church is in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is our Lord.
- Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah).
- Paul prayed for grace for the Thessalonian church.
- Paul prayed for peace for the Thessalonian church.
- Grace comes from God.
- Grace comes from Jesus.
- Peace comes from God.
- Peace comes from Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 1:2: "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;"

- Paul gave thanks to God for the Thessalonian church.
- Paul prayed for the Thessalonian church.
- It's good to pray for churches.
- It's good to give thanks to God for the existence of godly churches.
- Paul wanted the church to know that he was praying for them.
- Paul wanted the church to know that he was thankful for them.

1 Thessalonians 1:3: "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;"

- Paul continually remembered the Thessalonian church.
- Paul remembered the faith of the Thessalonian church.
- Paul remembered the labor of love of the Thessalonian church.
- Paul remembered the patience of the Thessalonian church.
- Paul remembered the hope that the Thessalonian church had in Jesus.
- Churches should be characterized by faith.
- Churches should be characterized by love.
- Churches should be characterized by patience.
- Churches should have hope in Jesus.
- Our hope should be in Jesus.

- Paul says that all the things the Thessalonian church had done (their faith and love and patience and hope) were done in the sight of God. This means God saw all of these things as well.
- God knows what's going on in the churches.
- The only person the Bible calls our Father is the Lord. That title is never given to a pastor or priest.
- Paul wanted the church to look to God as their Father, not to anyone else.

1 Thessalonians 1:4: "Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God."

- Paul refers to the church as his brothers.
- Even though the church contained women as well as men, Paul didn't think it was wrong to refer to them as his "brothers" instead of his "brothers and sisters".
- Paul calls the people in the church "beloved". This isn't seen as inappropriate.
- Paul is very affectionate toward the church.
- Paul says that the church is composed of the elect of God. The Lord had chosen them.
- Paul speaks of election (predestination).
- God is the one who chose to save the church. It was His decision.
- Paul wanted the church to remember the doctrine of election. He wanted the church to remember that God had chosen them.

1 Thessalonians 1:5: "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake."

- Paul preached the gospel to the church.
- When Paul preached the gospel to the church, he didn't just use words. Instead he preached with power.
- Paul preached the gospel to the church with the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Paul gave the church much assurance of the gospel.
- It's important to preach the gospel with power, and not just with words.
- It's important to preach the gospel with the Holy Spirit.
- Paul says the church knows how he, Timothy, and Silvanus behaved when they were among them. The things they did were done for the sake of the church.
- Preaching the gospel with power requires the Holy Spirit. It's not something that comes about by using clever words or tricks, or by manipulating the audience in some way.
- Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy had visited the Thessalonian church before writing this letter.

1 Thessalonians 1:6: "And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost."

- The church became followers of Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy.

- The church became followers of the Lord.
- Paul set an example, and the church followed it.
- The Thessalonian church received the gospel in the midst of much affliction.
- The church had been greatly afflicted.
- The Thessalonian church received the gospel with joy.
- The church experienced joy in the midst of affliction.
- The joy of the church came from the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit can give us joy.
- Sometimes churches are greatly afflicted.
- It's possible for a church to be greatly afflicted, and yet still joyful because the Holy Spirit gives them joy.

1 Thessalonians 1:7: "So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia."

- The Thessalonian church set an example for other churches to follow.
- The Thessalonian church was an example to all believers in Macedonia.
- The Thessalonian church was an example to all believers in Achaia.
- In the time of Paul, Macedonia existed.
- In the time of Paul, Achaia existed.
- Before Paul wrote this letter, there were already believers in Macedonia.
- Before Paul wrote this letter, there were already believers

in Achaia.

- When a church suffers great affliction, they can be an example to other churches.

1 Thessalonians 1:8: "For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing."

- The Thessalonian church spread the gospel to others.
- The Thessalonian church spread the gospel to Macedonia.
- The Thessalonian church spread the gospel to Achaia.
- The Thessalonian church spread the gospel beyond Macedonia and Achaia. They spread it abroad.
- The church should spread the gospel far and wide.
- Other people heard of the faith of the Thessalonians.
- The faith of the church was so great, and they had spread the gospel so far, that Paul didn't need to speak to them about that subject.
- The Thessalonian church spread the gospel in the midst of great affliction.
- Great affliction didn't stop the Thessalonian church from spreading the gospel.
- Great affliction didn't destroy the faith of the Thessalonian church.

1 Thessalonians 1:9: "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to

God from idols to serve the living and true God;"

- The Thessalonian church turned from idols to serving the Lord.
- In the past, the people in the Thessalonian church had served idols.
- The God of the Bible is the living God.
- The God of the Bible is the true God.
- Other believers outside of Thessalonica testified to Paul how the Thessalonians had turned away from idols to serve the Lord.
- It's good to turn away from idols and serve the Lord.
- In order to serve the Lord we must turn away from our idols. We can't serve both God and idols.
- Paul knew that the faith of the Thessalonians was genuine because they turned away from their idols. Their faith was accompanied by repentance.
- It's good for believers to testify of the faith and good deeds of other churches.
- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to know what a high regard he had for them.
- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to know how highly they were regarded by other churches, and what an impact their faithfulness was having on other churches.

1 Thessalonians 1:10: "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

- The Thessalonian church was waiting for the return of

Jesus.

- Jesus is the Son of God.
- Jesus is in Heaven.
- One day Jesus will return to this world.
- We must wait patiently for the Lord Jesus to return.
- The church should be looking for the return of Jesus.
- The doctrine of the end-times was important to Paul. He wanted the church to know that Jesus was going to come back one day, and he wanted the church to be actively and patiently waiting for His return.
- Paul didn't think that end-times doctrines were irrelevant to a church that was being persecuted. Instead he wanted those doctrines to be actively on their minds.
- Jesus is the Son of God.
- God raised Jesus from the dead.
- Jesus has already delivered us from the wrath to come.
- There is wrath to come.
- The reason we are delivered from the wrath to come is because of Jesus.
- At one point Jesus died, but now He is risen and is alive.

1 Thessalonians 2

1 Thessalonians 2:1: "For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:"

- Paul refers to the Thessalonian believers (both men and women) as "brethren".

- Paul reminded the Thessalonian church how he had acted when he visited them previously. He hadn't preached to them in vain.
- Paul didn't consider himself to be a success or failure based on whether people accepted the gospel and were converted. Instead he considered himself to have succeeded if he was able to faithfully present the gospel to people.
- Paul didn't want to preach in vain.
- Paul didn't preach in vain.

1 Thessalonians 2:2: "But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention."

- Paul preached to the Thessalonian church.
- Paul presented the gospel to the Thessalonians.
- Paul was persecuted at Philippi.
- Even though Paul was persecuted at Philippi, that didn't stop him from preaching the gospel to the Thessalonians.
- Paul preached the gospel boldly.
- Paul preached boldly in spite of the persecution that he suffered. The persecution didn't cause him to lose his boldness.
- Paul preached the gospel to the Thessalonians in the midst of persecution.
- Paul was treated shamefully at Philippi.
- Philippi existed in the time of Paul.

- The gospel should be preached.
- The gospel should be preached with great boldness.
- The gospel should be preached even in times of persecution.
- Persecution shouldn't cause us to lose our boldness when we preach the gospel.
- The gospel is the message of God, not the message of men.
- The gospel comes from God.
- When we preach the gospel, we're proclaiming the message of God.
- Paul reminded the persecuted Thessalonian church that he had also suffered persecution, and he had preached the gospel to them in the midst of persecution.

1 Thessalonians 2:3: "For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:"

- Paul exhorted the Thessalonians.
- Paul wasn't deceitful to the Thessalonians.
- Paul wasn't unclean when he was among the Thessalonians.
- Paul didn't use guile when dealing with the Thessalonians.
- We must not be deceitful.
- We must not be unclean.
- We must not use guile when dealing with others.
- The gospel must be presented honestly – without deceit

or guile.

- It's possible to be unclean.
- The church must never employ deception. God hasn't called us to lie on His behalf, or to lie about the gospel, or to lie about what the Bible teaches.
- God hates deceit.
- God hates guile.

1 Thessalonians 2:4: "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."

- God is the one who entrusted Paul with the gospel.
- Paul spoke the truth of the gospel.
- When Paul presented the gospel, he tried to please God, not men.
- Paul didn't modify the gospel or the teachings of the Bible in order to please anyone. Instead he preached the truth.
- It's a wicked thing to modify the gospel in order to please people.
- It's a wicked thing to modify any Biblical teaching in order to please people.
- The church must seek to please God, not men.
- We must preach the gospel.
- God has entrusted us with the gospel.
- God tests our hearts.
- God tests us.

- God tests us, to see if we will speak the truth or not.
- God wants us to speak the truth (the whole truth).

1 Thessalonians 2:5: "For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:"

- Paul didn't use flattery when speaking to the Thessalonians.
- Paul wasn't covetous in any way when he was among the Thessalonians.
- The church must not use flattery.
- The church must not be covetous.
- God was Paul's witness that he hadn't used flattery and hadn't been covetous.
- God watches what we do. He's a witness to our behavior.
- It's wrong to use flattery.
- It's wrong to be covetous.
- Paul didn't try to emotionally manipulate people into accepting the gospel, and he also didn't try to make the gospel more acceptable to people. Instead he preached the whole truth, with the intent to please God and not people.

1 Thessalonians 2:6: "Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ."

- Paul didn't seek glory from anyone – not from the

Thessalonian church, and not from other people as well.

- Paul didn't impose any burden on the Thessalonian church at all.
- We must not seek glory from others.
- It's wrong to seek glory from others. That must not be our goal or desire.
- It's bad for us to seek our own glory.
- Paul was an apostle.
- Paul was an apostle of Christ.
- It's good to seek to avoid being a burden to the church.
- Even though Paul was persecuted, and even though he suffered while presenting the gospel to the Thessalonians, he sought to not be a burden to them.
- Paul put the needs of the church ahead of his own needs.
- Paul didn't present the gospel in order to glorify himself.
- Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy are all called apostles of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:7: "But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children:"

- Paul treated the Thessalonians gently.
- The apostles were gentle.
- We must treat each other gently.
- It's good to be gentle.
- Even though Paul was an apostle, he acted with great gentleness.

- Even though Paul was persecuted and preaching in the midst of affliction, he acted with great gentleness.
- Paul saw the Thessalonians as his dear children that he was caring for.
- A nurse should cherish the children that she's taking care of.
- A nurse is someone who cares for children.
- Children should be treated with gentleness.
- Children should be cherished.
- A nurse should be gentle with the children that are in her care.
- Paul compares the apostles to nurses, who cherish children (the churches) and gently care for them.

1 Thessalonians 2:8: "So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us."

- Paul had great affection for the Thessalonian church.
- We should have affection for one another.
- The reason why Paul was willing to share the gospel with the Thessalonians in spite of persecution was because he loved them and had great affection for them.
- The apostles shared the gospel because they loved others. It was about love, not personal glory or fame.
- The apostles were willing to endure persecution in order to share the gospel because they loved others. They were driven by love.

- Paul loved the Thessalonians so much that he was willing to sacrifice a great deal for them.
- The gospel is of God.
- Paul refers to the gospel as the gospel of God.
- The Thessalonians were very dear to Paul.
- The church should be characterized by love for others.

1 Thessalonians 2:9: "For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God."

- Paul asked the Thessalonian church to remember how hard he had labored on their behalf. He wanted the church to remember what he had done for them.
- It's not wrong to ask other people to remember the good things that you've done for them in the past.
- Paul worked day and night so that the Thessalonian church wouldn't have to support him financially.
- Paul didn't receive money from the Thessalonian church. Instead of doing that, he worked a job night and day so that he could pay his own way (and he did that while being persecuted).
- It was very important to Paul that he not put any sort of financial burden on the churches. He wanted to pay his own way.
- It's good for preachers to work a full time job so that the church doesn't have to have the burden of financially supporting them.

- It's good for preachers to put the welfare of the church ahead of their own welfare.
- Paul didn't charge the church for preaching the gospel to them. He preached it free of charge, and paid his own way.
- Paul worked day and night.
- Paul preached the gospel to the Thessalonians.
- Paul cared about the Thessalonians, and loved them so much that he put their needs ahead of his own.

1 Thessalonians 2:10: "Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:"

- The Thessalonian church was a witness to the way that Paul behaved.
- God was a witness to the way that Paul behaved.
- God is watching our behavior.
- Paul was aware that God was watching him.
- While Paul was among the Thessalonians, he acted in a holy manner.
- While Paul was among the Thessalonians, he acted in a just manner.
- While Paul was among the Thessalonians, he was blameless.
- We must act in a holy manner.
- We must do what's just and right.
- We must be blameless.

- The Thessalonian church believed the gospel.

1 Thessalonians 2:11: "As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,"

- Paul exhorted the Thessalonian church.
- Paul comforted the Thessalonian church.
- Paul charged (instructed) the Thessalonian church.
- We should exhort one another.
- We should comfort one another.
- We should instruct one another.
- Paul compared himself to a father, and the church to children. He saw himself as a father taking care of children.
- Fathers should exhort their children.
- Fathers should comfort their children.
- Fathers should teach their children.

1 Thessalonians 2:12: "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory."

- Paul told the Thessalonian church to walk worthy of God.
- We must walk worthy of God. We aren't at liberty to act as we please or to live in sin.
- There are some who walk worthy of God, and there are others who don't.
- God has called us unto His kingdom.

- God is the one who called us. We didn't call ourselves.
- God has called us unto glory.
- The kingdom belongs to God.
- Paul was very concerned about the obedience of the Thessalonian church. Even though they were being persecuted, he still believed it was important for them to be obedient and faithful.
- Paul didn't teach that churches and individuals have a license to sin. He didn't teach that faithfulness didn't matter.

1 Thessalonians 2:13: "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

- Paul continually thanked God that the Thessalonians received the gospel as the word of God and not the word of men.
- The reason the Thessalonians received the gospel was because of God. He's the one who caused them to believe it (which is why Paul thanked God for their belief).
- Paul gave God all the credit for the fact that the Thessalonians received the gospel.
- The Thessalonians received the gospel from Paul and believed it.
- The gospel is the word of God. It's not the words of men.
- The gospel is the truth.

- The gospel effectually works in those who believe it.
- The gospel changes those who believe in it.
- If a person hasn't been changed by the gospel then they haven't truly believed it.
- We must receive the gospel as the words of God, not the words of men.
- It's wrong to look at the gospel as a message that came from mere men.
- It's wrong to say that the gospel has no power to change people.

1 Thessalonians 2:14: "For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:"

- The Thessalonian church became followers of the other churches that already existed.
- The churches that believe in the gospel are churches of God.
- Paul speaks of churches (plural). He's referring to the groups of believers that existed in each geographic location.
- Paul saw the church as divided by geography, not by doctrine. There were no denominations in the early church.
- In the early church there were churches in Judaea.
- The church is in Christ Jesus.
- Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah).

- The Thessalonian church was like the Judean church because the Judean church suffered at the hands of the Jews, and the Thessalonian church suffered at the hands of their own countrymen.
- The Jews persecuted the church in Judaea.
- The Thessalonian church was persecuted by other people in Thessalonica.
- The Thessalonian church suffered.
- The church in Judaea suffered.
- Both Jews and Gentiles persecuted the church.
- In the apostolic era there were Jews who didn't accept the gospel and persecuted the church.
- In the apostolic era there were Gentiles who didn't accept the gospel and persecuted the church.

1 Thessalonians 2:15: "Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:"

- Paul said that the Jews killed the Lord Jesus.
- Paul said that Jesus is Lord.
- Paul said that the Jews killed their own prophets.
- God sent prophets to the Jews.
- Paul said that the Jews had persecuted the apostles (including him).
- Paul said that the Jews didn't please God.
- Paul said that the Jews were against all men.

1 Thessalonians 2:16: "Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost."

- The Jews had tried to stop the church in Judaea from speaking to the Gentiles, in order to prevent them from being saved.
- The Jews opposed the spread of the gospel to the Gentiles.
- The Jews opposed the salvation of the Gentiles.
- The Jews "filled up their sins" by opposing the spread of the gospel to the Gentiles.
- The wrath of God has come upon the Jews to the uttermost.

1 Thessalonians 2:17: "But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great desire."

- Paul had only been able to spend a short time in person with the Thessalonian church.
- Even though Paul was no longer with the Thessalonian church, he still loved them and had a heart for them.
- Paul greatly desired to visit the Thessalonian church again.
- Paul described his departure from the Thessalonian church as being taken away from them. He doesn't seem to have left them willingly.
- Paul endeavored to see the Thessalonian church again.
- Paul placed great value on visiting churches in person and

seeing the people face to face.

1 Thessalonians 2:18: "Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."

- Paul tried to make another visit to the Thessalonian church.
- The reason Paul was unable to make another trip to visit the Thessalonian church was because Satan prevented it.
- The devil was opposed to Paul visiting the churches.
- Sometimes the devil was able to prevent Paul from visiting churches.
- There are times when the devil is able to successfully prevent us from doing something that we want to do.
- There are times when the devil is able to successfully prevent us from doing something that would benefit the church and the kingdom of God.
- The devil is our enemy.
- The devil is opposed to the church, and to anything that might benefit it.
- The devil fought against the apostle Paul.
- There are times when the devil was able to hinder Paul and thwart him.
- The devil is real.
- The devil is actively fighting against the churches.

1 Thessalonians 2:19: "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus

Christ at his coming?"

- The Thessalonian church was a source of hope for the apostle Paul.
- The Thessalonian church was a source of joy for the apostle Paul.
- It's good to be encouraged and find hope in the faithfulness of a persecuted church.
- It's good to find joy in the testimony of a persecuted church.
- Paul said that the Thessalonian church was a crown to him – a crown of rejoicing.
- Paul compared the Thessalonian church to a crown.
- Even though Paul was only with the Thessalonian church for a short time, he had taught them end-times doctrines and expected them to be looking forward to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is Lord.
- Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah).
- Jesus is going to return.
- Paul said that when the Lord returned, the Thessalonian church would be a source of joy in that moment.
- Paul expected the persecuted Thessalonian church to look forward to the return of Jesus and to find hope and joy in it.
- Paul thought that end-times doctrines were a source of hope and joy.
- Paul encouraged the Thessalonian church by telling them that they were a source of hope and joy.

1 Thessalonians 2:20: "For ye are our glory and joy."

- Paul said that the Thessalonian church was a source of glory for him.
- Paul said that the Thessalonian church was a source of joy to him.
- Churches can be a source of glory.
- Churches can be a source of joy.
- It's not wrong to find joy in a church.

1 Thessalonians 3

1 Thessalonians 3:1: "Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;"

- Paul and Silvanus remained behind in Athens. No one else was with them.
- Athens existed at the time of Paul.
- Even though Paul was being persecuted and was suffering for the gospel, he cared so much about the churches that he sent help to the churches instead of keeping it for himself.

1 Thessalonians 3:2: "And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:"

- Paul sent Timothy to the Thessalonian church.

- Timothy was sent to the Thessalonian church in order to establish them in the faith.
- Timothy was sent to the Thessalonian church in order to comfort them.
- When the Thessalonian church was suffering, Paul sent Timothy to comfort them.
- It's good to provide comfort to persecuted churches.
- Timothy was a minister of God.
- Paul called Timothy a fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ.
- Paul thought that Timothy had the skills needed to establish the Thessalonian church in the faith.
- It's important to nurture new churches and firmly establish them in the faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:3: "That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto."

- God has appointed Christians to suffer.
- Suffering is a normal part of the Christian life.
- We can't escape suffering. It's something God has appointed for us.
- We shouldn't be surprised when we suffer. Instead we should expect it.
- Paul suffered, the Thessalonian church suffered, and we will suffer as well.
- It's important to not be moved away from the faith by

afflictions.

- Paul sent Timothy to establish the Thessalonian church in the faith, so that the afflictions they were suffering wouldn't cause them to fall away from the gospel.
- Paul's goal was to strengthen the church so that they could endure afflictions.
- It's God's will for us to be afflicted.
- It's God's will for us to endure afflictions.
- God hasn't promised to prevent bad things from happening to us.
- Paul didn't tell the Thessalonian church that their afflictions were going to end. Instead he tried to strengthen them so they could endure them.

1 Thessalonians 3:4: "For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know."

- When Paul visited the Thessalonian church he warned them that they were going to suffer tribulation.
- Paul told the Thessalonian church that they were going to suffer tribulation, and they did.
- Paul told the new Thessalonian church, which had just accepted the gospel, that they were going to have to suffer for it. He didn't hide that fact from them, but made it plain from the beginning.
- The Thessalonian church accepted the gospel and were faithful in spite of the fact that Paul warned them they were going to be persecuted for it.

- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to faithfully endure afflictions. He didn't tell the church that they could modify the gospel to make it acceptable to the world, or that they should find some way to compromise with the world in order to make the world like them.
- It's not unusual or strange for churches or Christians to be afflicted.

1 Thessalonians 3:5: "For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain."

- Paul sent Timothy to see if the persecution that the Thessalonian church had suffered had caused them to fall away from the faith.
- Persecution comes from the devil.
- Persecution is a form of temptation.
- Paul saw persecution as something that comes from the devil in order to tempt the church.
- Paul was concerned that the Thessalonians had fallen away from the faith. If that had happened then the work that Paul put into establishing that church would have been in vain, since the church would have been gone.
- Paul was very concerned about the health and faithfulness of the Thessalonian church, so he sent someone to check on them.

1 Thessalonians 3:6: "But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always,

desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:"

- Timothy visited the Thessalonian church.
- After Timothy visited the Thessalonian church, he returned to Paul with a report of how the church was doing.
- Timothy reported that the Thessalonian church demonstrated faith.
- Timothy reported that the Thessalonian church demonstrated charity.
- Timothy reported that the Thessalonian church greatly desired to see Paul again.
- The Thessalonian church was faithful in the midst of persecution. They held on to their faith and they showed love to others.
- Persecution shouldn't cause us to lose our faith.
- Persecution shouldn't cause us to stop showing love to one another.
- When the Thessalonian church was persecuted for accepting the gospel that Paul shared with them, they didn't turn on Paul. Instead they earnestly desired to see him again.
- Paul wanted to see the Thessalonian church again.
- Paul told the Thessalonian church that he was concerned about them, and that's why he sent Timothy to them.
- Paul told the Thessalonian church that Timothy had brought a good report back to him.

1 Thessalonians 3:7: "Therefore, brethren, we were

comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:"

- The faithfulness of the Thessalonian church in the midst of their afflictions comforted Paul.
- Paul was afflicted.
- Paul was in great distress.
- The Thessalonian church endured affliction by their faith. Faith was what got them through it and enabled them to keep going.
- It's very important for a church to have faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:8: "For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord."

- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to stand fast in the Lord.
- The testimony of the faithful Thessalonian church, standing fast in the midst of persecution, greatly encouraged Paul. He would have been devastated if they had fallen away.

1 Thessalonians 3:9: "For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;"

- Paul thanked God for the faithfulness of the Thessalonian church.
- Paul gave God the credit for the faithfulness of the Thessalonians.
- God is the one who strengthens us and gives us the grace

to endure persecution.

- The faithfulness of the Thessalonian church gave Paul joy.
- Paul and the Thessalonian church served the same God.
- It's good to rejoice when a persecuted church stands fast in the faith.
- It's good to thank God for the faithfulness of persecuted churches.

1 Thessalonians 3:10: "Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?"

- Paul prayed night and day that he might be able to visit the Thessalonians again, and see them face to face.
- There was something lacking in the faith of the Thessalonians.
- Paul wanted to visit the Thessalonians again so that he could perfect their faith.
- It's possible to have faith, and yet still have something lacking in that faith.
- Since Paul wanted to visit the Thessalonians again, he prayed that God would give him that opportunity.
- Paul believed that God was in control of whether he was able to visit the Thessalonians again.
- Paul earnestly prayed that God would send him back to the Thessalonian church. He didn't pray just once about it, but prayed night and day (repeatedly).

1 Thessalonians 3:11: "Now God himself and our Father, and

our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you."

- Paul prayed that God the Father would send him back to the Thessalonian church, and let him visit them again.
- Paul prayed that Jesus would send him back to the Thessalonian church, and let him visit them again.
- God is our Father.
- Jesus is our Lord.
- Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ).
- God is the one who directs our path in life.
- When Paul wanted something, he prayed about it and asked God.
- Paul believed that his life, his future, and his path were all directed by God. He didn't believe that he was in control.

1 Thessalonians 3:12: "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:"

- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to abound in love toward one another.
- Paul believed that the Lord was the one who had the power to cause the Thessalonians to abound in love.
- Even though the Thessalonian church was being persecuted, Paul wanted them to abound in love toward one another. Their afflictions and suffering didn't give them an excuse to no longer be loving.
- Paul believed that God had the power to cause the Thessalonians to abound in love even in the midst of persecution.

- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to abound in love toward all men. Paul didn't limit this love to just fellow Christians.
- Paul said that he loved the Thessalonian church.
- It's good to have love for others.
- It's good to have love for all men.
- We should still have love for others even in the midst of suffering and afflictions.
- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to be characterized by love – a love that abounded and increased.

1 Thessalonians 3:13: "To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

- God is the one who establishes our hearts.
- God wants us to be unblameable.
- It's important for us to strive against sin, and be unblameable in God's sight.
- God seeks a pure church.
- God seeks a holy church.
- The church must pursue holiness.
- The church must seek to cleanse itself from all sin, and walk faithfully and obediently before God.
- The church must never tolerate sin.
- Jesus is going to return to this world.
- When Jesus returns to this world, He will bring all His saints with them.

- Paul kept bringing up end-times theology when talking to the persecuted Thessalonian church. He kept reminding the church of the return of Christ.
- Paul thought it was very important for the church to be found unblameable and holy at the moment when the Lord Jesus Christ returned to this world.
- Paul kept teaching end-times theology to the persecuted Thessalonian church.

1 Thessalonians 4

1 Thessalonians 4:1: "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more."

- Paul urged the persecuted Thessalonian church to become ever more faithful to the Lord, and to walk in the faith the way he taught them to walk.
- Paul had taught the Thessalonian church how to walk in the faith.
- It's good for churches to be taught how to walk in the faith.
- Churches need to understand how to walk in the faith.
- Churches need to be taught how to walk in the faith.
- Churches need to walk in the faith.
- Churches need to grow in faithfulness over time.
- If a church isn't growing in faithfulness over time then there's a problem.

- Paul exhorted the church in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Churches should strive to please God.
- Paul taught the Thessalonian church how to please God.
- As time goes on, churches should become better at pleasing God.
- The goal of the church should be to please God more and more, not to please the culture or the world or sinful pagans.
- If the church isn't trying to please God then something is very wrong.
- Paul told the persecuted Thessalonian church that they needed to grow in their ability to please God, and to grow in their faithfulness.
- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to focus on faithfulness and pleasing God. He didn't suggest that the church could sacrifice those two goals in order to grow and attract new members.

1 Thessalonians 4:2: "For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus."

- Paul taught the Thessalonian church the commandments of God.
- The way to please God is to keep His commandments.
- The commandments that Paul taught came from the Lord Jesus.
- Jesus is our Lord (our master).
- It's very important for the church to obey the

commandments of God.

- Churches need to know the commandments of God and keep them.
- Jesus is Lord over the church.
- The church should be striving to obey Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 4:3: "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:"

- It's the will of God for people to abstain from sexual immorality.
- It's important for our sanctification to abstain from sexual immorality.
- God doesn't give Christians a license to sin.
- God's will is for us to obey His commandments.
- God's will is for us to be sanctified.
- Being sanctified means abstaining from sin and doing what's right.
- Sexual immorality is a sin.
- Paul told the persecuted Thessalonian church that they needed to abstain from sexual immorality.

1 Thessalonians 4:4: "That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;"

- All Christians should know how to abstain from sexual immorality.
- Those who abstain from sexual immorality are possessing their bodies in a sanctified and honorable way.

- It's dishonorable to engage in sexual immorality.
- Paul refers to our bodies as a vessel.
- It's honorable to refuse to engage in sexual immorality.
- Paul wanted each Christian to make the choice to not engage in sin

1 Thessalonians 4:5: "Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:"

- Christians must not be controlled by sinful sexual desires.
- Christians must learn to rule over their bodies and control them, and not engage in sexual immorality.
- Christians must be different from the unsaved people around them.
- Christians don't have a license to sin.
- The unsaved are controlled by their sinful desires. Christians must not be like that.
- There should be a difference in lifestyle between those who know God and those who don't.

1 Thessalonians 4:6: "That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified."

- Christians aren't allowed to defraud one another in any way.
- It's a terrible thing for a Christian to defraud a fellow believer.
- It's a sin to defraud others.

- God avenges all Christians who are defrauded.
- The day will come when God will avenge Christians who have been defrauded.
- God specifically said that if one Christian defrauds another, God will avenge the Christian who has been defrauded.
- A Christian will experience consequences from God if he defrauds a fellow Christian.
- God punishes fraud.
- Fraud should have no place in the churches.
- Churches must not engage in fraud.
- God is the one who will avenge us when we're defrauded.
- Paul warned the Thessalonian church that God avenges those who have been defrauded.

1 Thessalonians 4:7: "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."

- God hasn't called us to uncleanness.
- God has called us to holiness.
- Christians must pursue holiness.
- Christians must flee from anything that would make them unclean in the sight of God (such as sin and sexual immorality).
- Churches must pursue holiness and obey God's commandments. They must have nothing to do with sin.
- God doesn't give Christians permission to live as they please.

- There are certain things that make Christians unclean.

1 Thessalonians 4:8: "He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit."

- Those who despise God's commandments are actually despising God Himself.
- The commandments in the Bible don't come from men. Instead they come from God.
- God has given us His Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is a gift from God.
- Those who break God's commandments are despising God.
- It's a wicked thing to despise God.

1 Thessalonians 4:9: "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another."

- Christians should have brotherly love for one another.
- Christians should be characterized by love.
- Churches should be characterized by love.
- Paul didn't need to write to the Thessalonian church about loving one another because they already knew that.
- God commands us to love one another.
- The commandment to love one another comes from God.

1 Thessalonians 4:10: "And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;"

- The Thessalonian church had brotherly love toward all Christians who live in Macedonia.
- The love of the Thessalonian church toward other believers was so apparent that Paul knew about it.
- Even though the Thessalonian church was characterized by love, Paul wanted their love to increase more and more.
- Churches should be characterized by an increasing amount of love. Their love for other Christians should grow over time.
- Paul told the persecuted and suffering Thessalonian church that it was important for their love to grow. He wanted them to love others even though they were suffering and being afflicted.
- If a church isn't characterized by love then there's a problem.
- If the love of a church isn't growing then there's a problem.

1 Thessalonians 4:11: "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;"

- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to learn to be quiet.
- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to learn to mind its own business.
- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to learn to work

with its hand.

- It's good for Christians to be quiet.
- It's good for Christians to mind their own business.
- It's good for Christians to work with their hands.
- There are some virtues that don't come naturally, which we have to learn. It's important for us to learn them so that we may please God.

1 Thessalonians 4:12: "That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing."

- Paul commanded the persecuted Thessalonian church to be quiet, mind their own business, and work with their hands, so that they could treat people outside of the church honestly and fairly.
- Paul commanded the persecuted Thessalonian church to work with their hands, so that they would lack nothing.
- It's important for Christians to treat people outside of the church honestly and fairly.
- Christians don't have the right to treat people outside of the church dishonestly or unfairly.
- Paul taught the Thessalonians to meet their material needs by working with their hands. He taught them to work in order to support themselves, instead of giving them a handout.

1 Thessalonians 4:13: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope."

- Paul referred to the dead as those who were asleep. He compared death to sleep.
- Paul didn't want the Thessalonian church to be ignorant of end-times doctrines.
- Paul didn't want the Thessalonian church to be as sorrowful over those who died as those who didn't have the hope of the gospel.
- Those outside of the church experience great sorrow when a person dies. Christians don't have to experience those same depths of sorrow.
- Those who are outside of the church have no hope.
- Those who are inside of the church have hope – a hope that's greater than death.

1 Thessalonians 4:14: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

- Jesus actually died. His death was real.
- Jesus rose from the dead. His resurrection was real.
- Just as Jesus died and rose again, so those who are dead in Christ will one day rise again.
- God has promised a resurrection for all Christians who have died.
- The reason we can have hope is because of the resurrection to come.
- The reason we don't need to be sorrowful over death to the same degree as the unbelieving world is because we know there's a resurrection to come. The dead will live

again!

- Paul said that when Jesus returns He will bring the dead in Christ with Him.
- The dead will be raised when Jesus returns.
- For Christians, death isn't the end. There's a resurrection to come.
- Paul refers to Jesus as God.
- Jesus is going to return.
- Paul thought it was very important for the persecuted Thessalonian church to know about the resurrection to come, and to focus on it. He thought the doctrines of end-times were very important and relevant for them.

1 Thessalonians 4:15: "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep."

- The doctrine of the resurrection comes from God, not from men.
- The doctrine of the return of Jesus comes from God, not from men.
- There are some Christians who will still be alive when the Lord Jesus returns to this world.
- When Jesus returns, some Christians will be alive and some will be dead. The fact that some will still be alive won't impair the resurrection of those who are dead.

1 Thessalonians 4:16: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and

with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"

- The day is coming when the Lord Jesus will descend from Heaven with a shout.
- When the Lord Jesus descends from Heaven, the voice of the archangel will be heard. The archangel will speak.
- There's only one archangel.
- Jesus is currently in Heaven.
- When the Lord Jesus descends from Heaven, the trumpet of God will sound.
- There is an archangel.
- There is a trumpet of God.
- Jesus isn't going to return secretly. When He comes, the archangel's voice will be heard and the trumpet of God will sound.
- When the Lord Jesus returns, those who are dead in Christ will rise first.
- The people who will be resurrected when the Lord Jesus returns are those who are dead in Christ.
- The day is coming when those who are dead in Christ will be resurrected. They will rise again (which is why Paul compared them to people who are asleep).
- The Bible teaches that there will be a resurrection of the dead. It does *not* teach reincarnation.
- Paul believed that the resurrection was a core doctrine that the church needed to know. He referred to it often.
- The reason Christians can have hope is because the dead in Christ will rise again.

1 Thessalonians 4:17: "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

- After Jesus has raised those who are dead in Christ, we who are alive will be caught up (raptured) to meet the Lord in the air.
- After Jesus has raised the dead, both the living and the resurrected will be caught up to meet Him in the air.
- The place where we will meet Jesus is in the air.
- After the resurrection, we will ever be with the Lord. We won't be parted from Him again!
- At the rapture, we will be caught up with the living in the clouds. The place where we will meet Jesus in the air seems to be in the midst of clouds.

1 Thessalonians 4:18: "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

- Paul believed that the doctrine of the rapture should be a source of great comfort to the Thessalonian church.
- Paul wanted the Thessalonian church to use the doctrines of the return of Christ and the rapture to comfort one another.
- Paul didn't say that the doctrines of end-times were irrelevant and a distraction. Instead he taught that they were an important source of comfort.
- Paul wanted the church to teach the doctrine of the rapture. He didn't want them to ignore or disregard it.

- The rapture should be something that brings us comfort, not a source of fear or anxiety.

1 Thessalonians 5

1 Thessalonians 5:1: "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you."

- Paul didn't need to explain to the Thessalonian church the times and seasons of the Lord's return.
- There is a time of the Lord's return.
- There is a season of the Lord's return.
- It's possible to know the times and seasons.
- The persecuted Thessalonian church had a solid understanding of end-times prophecy. This included knowledge of the times and the seasons.

1 Thessalonians 5:2: "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."

- The Day of the Lord (the seven-year tribulation period) will come upon the world unexpectedly. They won't see it coming.
- Paul compares the coming of the tribulation to a thief breaking in unexpectedly at night.
- The Thessalonian church understood that the tribulation period would catch the world by surprise.
- When the tribulation happens, the world won't see it coming. They'll have no idea that terrible times are at hand and things are about to get very bad. This strongly

implies that life will be very good right before the tribulation.

- Paul talks about the times and season of the Day of the Lord (the tribulation), but he doesn't say anything about the times and seasons of the rapture.
- The church should have a good understanding of the times and seasons of end-times theology. Paul expected the church to know these things.

1 Thessalonians 5:3: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

- Right before the tribulation happens, the world will be at peace.
- Right before the tribulation happens, the world will experience great safety.
- The world will be completely surprised by the tribulation because before it begins the world will be experiencing peace and safety.
- The Day of the Lord (the tribulation) will be sudden destruction. The world will be suddenly destroyed.
- The world won't escape the destruction of the tribulation.
- Paul compares the Day of the Lord to the birth pains of a pregnant mother. They unexpectedly come out of nowhere, and are very intense.
- Paul describes a pregnant woman as a woman with child. He very clearly says that the unborn life within the mother is a child (a human being).
- The destruction of the tribulation will be very sudden.

1 Thessalonians 5:4: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief."

- Although the tribulation will overtake the world as a thief in the night, it won't be a surprise to the church.
- The reason the church won't be surprised by the tribulation is because we're not in darkness.
- Paul compares the tribulation period to a thief who brings sudden and unexpected destruction.
- The church isn't in darkness. God has revealed the times and seasons to us.
- The tribulation period won't overtake the church. We won't have to endure that time.
- When it comes to the end-times, Christians have an enormous advantage over the world.
- It's bad to be caught by surprise by the tribulation.
- It's bad to be in darkness when it comes to the tribulation.

1 Thessalonians 5:5: "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness."

- Christians are the children of light.
- Christians are the children of the day.
- Christians aren't of the night.
- Christians aren't of the darkness.
- Those who aren't saved are of the night.
- Those who aren't saved are of the darkness.

- It's good to be of the light, and of the day.
- It's bad to be of the night, and of the darkness.
- Christians are fundamentally different from the world.
- The nature of a Christian is completely opposite of the nature of a non-Christian.

1 Thessalonians 5:6: "Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

- Paul commanded the church to not fall asleep when it comes to the end times. He expected the church to be fully aware of the subject, to know the times and the seasons, and to be actively watching.
- Paul didn't want the church to ignore the subject of end-times prophecy. He thought it was very important.
- Paul thought that even the persecuted Thessalonian church should be very aware of end-times prophecy and should have a perfect knowledge of it.
- Some people had fallen asleep when it came to end times prophecy and were ignoring it. Paul said that was a bad thing, and we must not do that.
- Christians must soberly watch for the Lord's return.
- When it comes to the Lord's return, there's something specific we can be watching for.
- Paul wanted Christians to be alert and sober, and keep watch. He wanted Christians to remain on guard.
- Christians should be characterized by watchfulness.

1 Thessalonians 5:7: "For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night."

- Paul said that sleep should be reserved for the lost world, which is living in the night. It's not appropriate for Christians to stop watching.
- Paul said that drunken behavior should be reserved for the lost world, which is living in the night. It's not appropriate for Christians who are watching for the return of the Lord Jesus.
- A lack of watchfulness regarding the Lord's return is a characteristic of the lost. It shouldn't be a characteristic of Christians.
- Drunken behavior is a characteristic of the lost. It shouldn't be a characteristic of Christians.

1 Thessalonians 5:8: "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."

- Christians must lead sober lives.
- Christians must pursue faith.
- Christians must pursue love.
- It's good to lead a sober and watchful life.
- It's good to have faith, and to hold on to faith in the midst of persecution.
- It's good to pursue love, even in times of great affliction.
- Paul said that faith and love were a breastplate (a piece of armor that protects us).
- Paul said that salvation was a helmet (a piece of armor

that protects us).

- We must not lose hope. Our salvation gives us great hope, because of the promise of the resurrection to come.
- Since we're watching for the Lord's return, we must be sober. We must pursue faith and love, and hold on to our salvation.
- Christians must not lose hope.
- Our salvation should give us great hope, for it speaks of a resurrection to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9: "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,"

- God hasn't appointed the church to wrath.
- God hasn't appointed the church to face the wrath of the tribulation.
- The tribulation is the wrath of God, which He's pouring out upon the world (those who are in darkness).
- Christians are saved through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Salvation is only possible through Jesus. There's no other path to salvation, and no other way to be saved.
- The Lord Jesus is the one who's going to save us from the tribulation.
- God has appointed the world to wrath, but not the church.

1 Thessalonians 5:10: "Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him."

- The Lord Jesus Christ died for us (the church; those who are in the light).
- Our salvation was purchased by the death of the Lord Jesus.
- The only way we can be saved is by the death of the Lord Jesus.
- Those who are dead in Christ (who Paul says are "sleeping", since their body is dead) are together with Jesus.
- Those who are alive in Christ (who Paul says are "awake", since their body is *not* dead) are together with Jesus.
- Whether we're alive or dead, we are with Christ. He is with us in this life, and when we die we will go to be with Him.
- We are with Jesus no matter where we are.
- Jesus died so that we might always be with Him.
- Jesus wants us to be with Him.
- We should want to be with Jesus.
- Jesus paid a very great price to save us.
- Jesus loves us.

1 Thessalonians 5:11: "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."

- Christians should comfort one another.
- Christians should edify one another.
- The doctrine of the rapture should bring comfort to the church.

- The Thessalonian Christians were already comforting one another. Paul urged them to continue to do that.
- It's good to comfort others.
- It's good to edify others.
- It's good to talk about the rapture, and the doctrines of end-times prophecy.

1 Thessalonians 5:12: "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;"

- There are those who labor among Christians in the church.
- There are those who are over other Christians in the church, and who have authority over the church.
- There are those who admonish other Christians in the church.
- There should be people in the church who have authority over the church, and who admonish those within the church.
- It's good for Christians to be admonished.
- Christians should know their leaders. They should know the people who have authority over them in the church.
- It's the responsibility of those who have leadership over the church to admonish those who are within it.

1 Thessalonians 5:13: "And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves."

- Christians should highly esteem those who have authority over them in the church.
- Christians should have great love for those who have authority over them in the church.
- The reason Christians should esteem those who have authority over the church, and have love for them, is for the sake of their work.
- Christians in the church should be at peace with one another.
- The church should be characterized by peace.

1 Thessalonians 5:14: "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men."

- Paul exhorted the Thessalonian church.
- Those who are unruly in the church should be warned.
- It's wrong for Christians to be unruly.
- It's good to warn Christians to behave and do what's right.
- The church must not allow people to be unruly in the church. Churches should warn people who are misbehaving and put a stop to that behavior.
- Christians should comfort those who are feeble minded.
- There are some people in the church who are feeble minded.
- Christians have a responsibility to comfort those who need it.

- Christians should support those who are weak.
- There are some people in the church who are weak.
- Christians have a responsibility to help those who are in need of help.
- Christians must be patient toward everyone.
- It's good to be patient.

1 Thessalonians 5:15: "See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men."

- It's wrong to do evil to someone who's done evil to you.
- Christians must do that which is good, even when other people do evil things to them.
- Christians must do good to everyone – both to those who are in the faith, and to those who are outside it.
- Christians aren't allowed to do evil to those who are within the church.
- Christians aren't allowed to do evil to those who are outside the church.
- Christians must always follow that which is good, no matter the circumstances.

1 Thessalonians 5:16: "Rejoice evermore."

- Christians must always rejoice.
- Paul told the persecuted and suffering Thessalonian church to rejoice.
- It's possible to rejoice in the midst of persecution,

suffering, and affliction.

- The church must be characterized by rejoicing. This is true regardless of the circumstances that the church is going through.

1 Thessalonians 5:17: "Pray without ceasing."

- Christians must not stop praying.
- Prayer is important. Christians must not neglect it.

1 Thessalonians 5:18: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

- Christians should give thanks for everything.
- Christians should be thankful.
- Paul told the suffering and persecuted Thessalonian church to be thankful.
- It's possible to be thankful in the midst of persecution and affliction.
- Being persecuted doesn't give us the right to stop being thankful.
- It's God's will for us to be thankful, regardless of our circumstances.
- It's an evil thing to not be thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:19: "Quench not the Spirit."

- Christians must not quench the Holy Spirit.
- It's possible to quench the Holy Spirit.

- It's an evil thing to quench the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:20: "Despise not prophesyings."

- Christians must not despise prophecy.
- It's an evil thing to despise prophecy.
- Paul believed that prophecy was real, and that Christians should take it seriously.

1 Thessalonians 5:21: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

- Paul commanded the persecuted Thessalonian church to prove all things.
- Christians must test all doctrines. We aren't allowed to believe everything we hear.
- Christians must learn how to be discerning.
- Christians must reject false teachings and hold fast to teachings that are good and right and true.
- Christians aren't allowed to reject or compromise doctrines that are good and right and true.
- Even churches that are persecuted must learn to exercise discernment.
- It's good to put doctrines to the test, to see if they're true or false.
- It's bad to accept a doctrine without testing it first.
- It's good to hold on to doctrines that are true.
- A good church will test all doctrines. It will hold on to all

doctrines that are true, and reject all doctrines that are false.

1 Thessalonians 5:22: "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

- Christians must abstain from all appearance of evil.
- It's not enough for Christians to abstain from evil. We must also not do anything that seems to be evil.
- It's bad for Christians to do things that appear to be evil (even if it's not actually evil).
- Christians must care about appearances. We have to be careful not to appear to be doing anything evil. (However, it's fine to do things that are good but which this wicked world hates).

1 Thessalonians 5:23: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

- God is the one who sanctifies us.
- God is able to wholly sanctify us.
- Christians should seek to be sanctified.
- God is a God of peace.
- People have a spirit, a soul, and a body. Those are three different and separate things.
- The spirit and soul are different. They're not two different words for the same thing.
- Paul prayed that our spirit would be blameless.

- Paul prayed that our soul would be blameless.
- Paul prayed that our body would be blameless.
- It's possible for our spirit to not be blameless.
- It's possible for our soul to not be blameless.
- It's possible for our body to not be blameless.
- Christians must seek to be blameless in all things. No amount of sin is acceptable in the sight of God.
- Paul prayed to God that we would be blameless.
- Paul wanted us to remain blameless until the Lord Jesus returns (at the rapture).
- Paul continually makes references to the rapture. He keeps bringing up end-times doctrines as something that was very relevant and important for the persecuted Thessalonian church to be focused on.
- God is the one who is able to preserve us and make us blameless until the Lord Jesus returns for us.
- One day the Lord Jesus Christ is going to return for us.
- It's important for us to be found blameless when the Lord Jesus comes for us.
- We have a spirit.
- We have a soul.
- We have a body.

1 Thessalonians 5:24: "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it."

- Jesus is the one who has called us.

- Jesus is faithful.
- Jesus will keep His promises. He will return for us, and raise us from the dead, and save us from the wrath to come.
- We have been called.
- We didn't call ourselves. Instead Jesus called us.
- We didn't save ourselves. instead Jesus saved us.
- The reason we're saved is because Jesus called us.
- Jesus is the one who will make His promises come to pass. He will perform them with the power of His might.

1 Thessalonians 5:25: "Brethren, pray for us."

- Paul asked the persecuted Thessalonian church to pray for him.
- Paul valued the prayers of others.
- Paul sought the prayers of others.
- Paul believed there was great value in having other people pray for him.
- Paul believed that prayer mattered, and made a difference.
- It's good to pray for others.
- It's good to ask other people to pray for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:26: "Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss."

- Paul believed that it was appropriate to greet other

Christians with a kiss. This wasn't seen as inappropriate.

- It's important to greet other Christians.

1 Thessalonians 5:27: "I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren."

- Paul wanted this letter to be read to everyone at the Thessalonian church.
- Paul wanted this letter to be read to all Christians.
- Christians are holy.
- It's good and important for Christians to read this letter.
- Paul thought that this letter was important. He wanted all Christians to know what it said.
- Christians shouldn't ignore this letter.
- It's good to read God's word aloud to others, so that they may hear it.
- Paul didn't want this letter to be kept secret.

1 Thessalonians 5:28: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."

- Paul prayed that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ would be with the persecuted and suffering Thessalonian church.
- Jesus is able to give us grace.
- It's good for us to pray that Jesus would give grace to others.
- It's good to receive grace from Jesus.

- Paul ends this letter with "Amen" (let it be).