

## Worksheet 1: Overview of 1 & 2 Thessalonians

**Background:** You may want to consult a study Bible or Bible dictionary for help with these questions.

1. Consult Acts 17:1–10 and 1 Thess. 1:9. What do we learn from these texts about the people, situation, and background of the church in Thessalonica?

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2. What do we learn from 1 Thess. 3:1–10 about the chain of events that prompted this letter?

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**Major Themes:** Based on a quick read of the text, try to draw some preliminary conclusions about the message and emphasis of these books.

3. Read through 1 Thessalonians and list the specific needs of the church that Paul addresses.

4. Read through 2 Thessalonians and list the specific needs of the church that Paul addresses.

5. Based on your reading of both letters, what are some major theological themes that you noticed?

**Personal Response:** Reflect on the opportunity to study these books with your Sunday School class.

6. What topics from the text are you excited about discussing together?

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7. What are some of your favorite verses or passages in these books?

8. What questions do you have about these books?

## Outlines<sup>1</sup>

### 1 Thessalonians

- I. INTRODUCTION (1:1)
- II. EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS AND LOVE FOR THE THESSALONIANS (1:2–3:13)
  - A. First Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians (1:2–10)
  - B. Paul’s Relationship with the Thessalonians During His Visit Demonstrating the Purity of His Motives for the Thessalonian Ministry (2:1–12)
  - C. Second Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians (2:13–16)
  - D. Paul’s Relationship with the Thessalonians After His Departure (2:17–3:10)
  - E. Third Prayer of Thanksgiving Introducing the Three Major Topics of the Next Section: Personal Holiness, Christian Love, and the Second Coming (3:11–13)
- III. EXHORTATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS (4:1–5:22)
  - A. Introduction to Exhortations (4:1–2)
  - B. Exhortation to Personal Holiness and Sexual Purity (4:3–8)
  - C. Exhortation to Christian Love and Responsible Living (4:9–12)
  - D. Instructions about the Second Coming (4:13–18)
  - E. Exhortations Related to the Second Coming (5:1–11)
  - F. General Exhortations (5:12–22)
- IV. CONCLUSION (5:23–28)

### 2 Thessalonians

- I. INTRODUCTION (1:1–12)
- II. THESIS STATEMENT: THE DAY OF THE LORD HAS NOT OCCURRED AND TRUE BELIEVERS NEED NOT FEAR IT (2:1–2)
- III. PROOFS SUPPORTING PAUL’S THESIS (2:3–19)
  - A. First Proof: Day of the Lord Has Not Occurred (2:3–12)
  - B. Second Proof: Christians Can Have Hope and Confidence as They Anticipate the End Time (2:13–17)
- IV. EXHORTATIONS (3:1–15)
  - A. Exhortation to Pray (3:1–5)
  - B. Exhortations Related to the Idle (3:6–15)
- V. CONCLUSION (3:16–18)

## Schedule for Bible Study

May 24	Overview of Thessalonians
May 31	1 Thess. 1:1–10
Jun 7	1 Thess. 2:1–16
Jun 14	1 Thess. 2:17–3:13
Jun 21	1 Thess. 4:1–12
Jun 28	1 Thess. 4:13–5:11
Jul 5	1 Thess. 5:12–28
Jul 12	2 Thess. 1:1–12
Jul 19	2 Thess. 2:1–17
Jul 26	2 Thess. 3:1–18
Aug 2	Overview of Pastoral Epistles
Aug 9	1 Tim. 1:1–11
Aug 16	1 Tim. 1:12–20
Aug 23	1 Tim. 2:1–15
Aug 30	1 Tim. 3:1–16
Sep 6	1 Tim. 4:1–16
Sep 13	1 Tim. 5:1–16
Sep 20	1 Tim. 5:17–25
Sep 27	1 Tim. 6:1–21
Oct 4	2 Tim. 1:1–18
Oct 11	2 Tim. 2:1–13
Oct 18	2 Tim. 2:14–26
Oct 25	2 Tim. 3:1–17
Nov 1	2 Tim. 4:1–22
Nov 8	Titus 1:1–16
Nov 15	Titus 2:1–15
Nov 22	Titus 3:1–15
Nov 29	Teacher’s Choice

<sup>1</sup> Andreas J. Köstenberger, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, The Cross, and The Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament* (Nashville, Tenn: B & H Academic, 2009), 447–448.

## Worksheet 2: 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10 (NKJV)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>2</sup>We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, <sup>3</sup>remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, <sup>4</sup>knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. <sup>5</sup>For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

<sup>6</sup>And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. <sup>8</sup>For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. <sup>9</sup>For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *even* Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

**Interpretation:** *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. Compare several translations of vv. 2 and 3. Where do different translations place the word translated “without ceasing” (NKJV) or “constantly” (others)? Which position do you think makes the most sense, and why?  

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2. How should we understand the phrases “work of faith,” “labor of love,” and “patience of hope” in verse 3? For instance, what is the relationship between “work” and “faith” here?  

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3. How could Paul be so confident of the Thessalonians’ election (1:4)? What assurances does he mention in this context that would support such a conclusion?  

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4. How should we understand the contrast between a gospel that came not only “in word” but also “in power” (v. 5)?  

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5. In what way were the Thessalonian believers an “example to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe” (v. 7)? How can an entire congregation make an impact on believers elsewhere? Why would this be significant in this letter?  

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6. Why might Paul be reminding these believers of their dramatic conversion experience (v. 9; cf. Acts 17:1–10)? What does this suggest about current situation that Paul addresses in this letter?  

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7. In what ways would the future deliverance from divine wrath through Jesus (v. 10) encourage the believers in Thessalonica? Compare with 1 Thess. 5:9 and 2 Thess. 1:6–10 for some additional context.  

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**Application:** *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

8. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?  

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9. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?  

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### Worksheet #3: 1 Thessalonians 2:1–16 (NKJV)

For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.<sup>2</sup> But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.<sup>3</sup> For our exhortation *did* not *come* from error or uncleanness, nor *was it* in deceit.

<sup>4</sup> But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.<sup>5</sup> For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness.<sup>6</sup> Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.<sup>7</sup> But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children.<sup>8</sup> So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.<sup>9</sup> For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

<sup>10</sup> You *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;<sup>11</sup> as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father *does* his own children,<sup>12</sup> that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup> For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.<sup>14</sup> For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they *did* from the Judeans,<sup>15</sup> who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,<sup>16</sup> forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up *the measure of* their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

**Interpretation:** *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. In v. 2, Paul refers to his suffering in Philippi (Acts 16:11–40). Why is this background significant to establish Paul’s pure motives for his subsequent ministry among the Thessalonians?  

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2. How can Paul claim to have been “approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel” (v. 4), and what test does he propose in context to support such an assertion?  

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3. How does Paul’s abstention from his apostolic rights while with the Thessalonians (v. 6–7) actually confirm his legitimacy as an apostle?  

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4. In what way could Paul claim to have given the Thessalonians “our own lives” in addition to the message of the gospel (v. 8)?  

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5. What does Paul describe as his consistent message while among the Thessalonian believers (vv. 10–12)? Why is it important that the Thessalonians themselves could attest to his conduct (and that God would concur)?  

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6. How could Paul be certain that his message was “effectively work[ing] in you who believe” (v. 13)? How could he be certain that his message truly was “the word of God” as opposed to the “word of men”?  

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7. What was it about the Thessalonians’ experience that confirmed their faith to Paul (v. 14–16)? What does this tell us about the effect of persecution upon genuine faith?  

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8. What does Paul mean by “so ... fill[ing] up the measure of their sins” with reference to the Jews (v. 16)?  

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**Application:** *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?  

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10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?  

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## Worksheet #4: 1 Thessalonians 2:17–3:13 (NKJV)

<sup>17</sup> But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire. <sup>18</sup> Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. <sup>19</sup> For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Is it* not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? <sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, <sup>2</sup> and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith, <sup>3</sup> that no one should be shaken by these afflictions; for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this. <sup>4</sup> For, in fact, we told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation, just as it happened, and you know. <sup>5</sup> For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter had tempted you, and our labor might be in vain.

<sup>6</sup> But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also *to see* you—<sup>7</sup> therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith. <sup>8</sup> For now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, <sup>10</sup> night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, <sup>13</sup> so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

**Interpretation:** *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. Note the one thing that prevented Paul and his team from returning to Thessalonica (2:18). What does this say about the earnestness of Paul's desire to return?  

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2. List the phrases Paul uses to describe the Thessalonians in 2:19–20, and reflect upon the significance of these descriptors.  

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3. Notice the ways that Paul describes Timothy in 3:2. What does this communicate about their relationship with each other? What does it tell us about the nature of ministry?  

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4. What is the purpose for Timothy's visit, according to 3:2b–3? In what way might Timothy's efforts produce the result described in 3:3?  

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5. Whose "afflictions" does Paul describe in 3:3? What does Paul understand to be the purpose of these afflictions?  

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6. Notice Paul's pastoral concern in 3:5 and 3:7–8. What was Paul's burden, and what reassured him?  

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7. List Paul's prayer requests in 3:9–13, and explain how this prayer relates to the situation described in this passage.  

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8. Compare Paul's prayer in 3:11–13 with the earlier prayer of thanksgiving in 1:2–10. Can you find any common themes in these two passages?  

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**Application:** *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?  

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10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?  

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## Worksheet #5: 1 Thessalonians 4:1–12 (NKJV)

Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;<sup>2</sup> for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

<sup>3</sup>For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;<sup>4</sup> that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,<sup>5</sup> not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;<sup>6</sup> that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.<sup>7</sup> For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.<sup>8</sup> Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;<sup>10</sup> and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;<sup>11</sup> that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,<sup>12</sup> that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and *that* you may lack nothing.

**Interpretation:** *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. In vv. 1 and 10, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to “abound/increase more and more” in certain things. In what virtues does Paul call the Thessalonians to increase, from the context? Why the repeated references to “more and more”?  

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2. Three times in this passage Paul refers to things he previously taught the Thessalonians (vv. 2, 6, and 11). How do these references to the church’s collective memory instruct us about how we should absorb pastoral teaching?  

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3. What does Paul identify as the “will of God” for the Thessalonians in v. 3? How should an understanding of this larger goal shape our sexual ethic?  

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4. How does a proper sexual ethic contrast with the social norms of unredeemed society (v. 5)? What does such a contrast highlight about Christian identity?  

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5. How could licentious behavior cause believers to “take advantage of and defraud” other “brothers” (v. 6)? In this context, is “brothers” a reference to other believers generally, or specifically to other men? Explain your answer.  

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6. What is God’s goal for believers, as described in v. 7, and what is the means he has given to believers for achieving that goal (v. 8)?  

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7. Compare Paul’s teaching in vv. 3–8 with 1 Corinthians 6:15–20. What are some similarities and differences that you can observe in these two passages?  

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8. What are Paul’s concrete objectives for the Thessalonians in vv. 10b–11? What are the anticipated results (v. 12)?  

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**Application:** *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?  

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10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?  

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## Worksheet #6: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

<sup>5</sup> But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. <sup>2</sup> For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. <sup>6</sup> Therefore let us not sleep, as others *do*, but let us watch and be sober. <sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

**Interpretation:** *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. Who is Paul describing when he speaks of “those who have fallen asleep” (4:13)? What clues in the context help us to understand his meaning?  

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2. What event does Paul refer to as the ground for his conclusion that God will “bring with him those who sleep in Jesus” (4:14)? What does Paul say about this claim in 1 Cor. 15:1–11?  

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3. What does Paul likely mean when he says that the living “will by no means precede”<sup>1</sup> those who are asleep (4:15)?  

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4. In what sense is the return of Christ (described in 4:16–17) a source of comfort (4:18) for believers?  

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5. What does Paul mean when he says that the Thessalonian believers “are not in darkness” and thus the Day of the Lord will not “overtake you as a thief” (5:4)?  

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6. What does it mean for those who are “of the day” (5:5) to “watch and be sober” (5:6, *cf.* 5:8)?  

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7. What does it mean when Paul states that “God did not appoint us to wrath” (5:9)?  

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8. Why is it significant that Christ died “for us” (5:10)?  

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**Application:** *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?  

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10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?  

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<sup>1</sup> The KJV rendering “prevent” here reflects an archaic meaning. In the past, the word “prevent” could mean “to go before someone,” though today the word “prevent” usually means “to keep something from happening.”

## Worksheet #7: 1 Thessalonians 5:12–28 (NKJV)

And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,<sup>13</sup> and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

<sup>14</sup>Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.<sup>15</sup> See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always,<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing,<sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

<sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit.<sup>20</sup> Do not despise prophecies.<sup>21</sup> Test all things; hold fast what is good.  
<sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful, who also will do *it*.

<sup>25</sup>Brethren, pray for us.

<sup>26</sup>Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

<sup>27</sup>I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

<sup>28</sup>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

**Interpretation:** *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. What roles does Paul attribute to leaders within the church in v. 12? How are individual people within the church to respond to their leaders in vv. 12–13? What does Paul anticipate will occur as a result?

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2. How do the exhortations of vv. 14–15 further define the role of church leaders? Of members?

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3. What are the functions of joy, prayer, and thanksgiving within a local assembly of believers (v. 16–18)?

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4. What kinds of actions could be described as “quench[ing] the Spirit” (v. 19)?

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5. What does Paul have in mind when he says, “do not despise prophecies” (v. 20)?

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6. What does it mean to “abstain from every form of evil” (v. 22)?

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7. What does it mean for “the God of peace Himself” to “sanctify you completely” (v. 23)? Is Paul describing a state of sinless perfection that can be attained in this life? Explain your answer from context.

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**Application:** *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

8. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

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9. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?

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**Review:** *Take a few moments to look back through your study of 1 Thessalonians.*

10. What are some passages/topics in this book that you found to be particularly challenging or helpful?

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## Worksheet #8: 2 Thessalonians 1:1–12 (NKJV)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, <sup>4</sup> so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, <sup>5</sup> *which* is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; <sup>6</sup> since *it* is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, <sup>7</sup> and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, <sup>8</sup> in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, <sup>10</sup> when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power, <sup>12</sup> that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Interpretation:** *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. For what did Paul thank the Lord in his prayers regarding the Thessalonian believers (v. 3)?

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2. How does Paul explain the persecution experienced by the Thessalonians (v. 5)?

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3. How does persecution of the church provide an opportunity for God to demonstrate his righteousness (vv. 5–7)?

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4. Is Paul describing two groups who will fall under divine wrath in v. 8, or one? Explain your answer.

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5. What does it mean to receive punishment “with everlasting destruction *from* the presence of the Lord and *from* the glory of His power” (v. 9)?

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6. What are Paul’s prayer requests for the Thessalonian believers (v. 11)? Identify and explain each request.

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7. What is the “calling” to which Paul refers in v. 11?

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8. What is Paul’s motivating purpose in his prayer requests (v. 12)? How do the requests in v. 11 fulfill the purpose in v. 12?

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**Application:** *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

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10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?

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## Worksheet #9: 2 Thessalonians 2:1–17 (NKJV)

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,<sup>2</sup> not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come.<sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,<sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

<sup>5</sup> Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?<sup>6</sup> And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time.<sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way.<sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.<sup>9</sup> The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,<sup>10</sup> and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.<sup>11</sup> And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,<sup>12</sup> that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

<sup>13</sup> But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,<sup>14</sup> to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

<sup>16</sup> Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,<sup>17</sup> comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

**Interpretation:** Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.

1. What situation is Paul's primary concern in this passage (vv. 1–2)? What is his response?  
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2. What must precede the coming of the Day of the Lord (v. 3)? Describe this event using details from context (vv. 3–4).  
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3. What does the phrase “the falling away” likely describe? You may want to compare a variety of translations.  
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4. What actions does the text attribute to the “man of sin/lawlessness,” also described here as the “son of perdition/destruction” (vv. 3–4)?  
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5. How might we identify the thing that “is restraining” (v. 6) and the one who “restrains” (v. 7)? What might be the relationship between the two? How might this restraining influence be removed or “taken out of the way” (v. 7)?  
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6. What sets the Thessalonians apart from “those who perish” (v. 10), according to vv. 13–15?  
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7. What is Paul's goal in writing this passage to the Thessalonians (v. 16–17)?  
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**Application:** Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.

8. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?  
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9. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?  
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**For Further Study:** As the study questions hopefully demonstrate, this passage includes a number of significant and challenging interpretational questions, regardless of one's position on eschatology (the doctrine of “last things”). Readers who wish to go further may find the following resources to be helpful:

MacArthur, John. *1 & 2 Thessalonians*. The MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 2002. [No knowledge of Greek necessary.]

Hiebert, David Edmond. *The Thessalonian Epistles, a Call to Readiness*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1971. [Assumes, yet does not depend heavily upon, some knowledge of Greek.]

Archer, Gleason L., ed. *Three Views on the Rapture: Pre-, Mid-, or Post-Tribulation?* Counterpoints. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 1996. [Greek and Hebrew terms are not transliterated, yet occur relatively rarely and with English contextual explanation.]

## Worksheet #10: 2 Thessalonians 3:1–18 (NKJV)

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified, just as *it is* with you,<sup>2</sup> and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith.

<sup>3</sup> But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.<sup>4</sup> And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you.

<sup>5</sup> Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

<sup>6</sup> But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.<sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;<sup>8</sup> nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you,<sup>9</sup> not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

<sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.<sup>11</sup> For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.<sup>12</sup> Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread.

<sup>13</sup> But *as for* you, brethren, do not grow weary *in* doing good.<sup>14</sup> And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.<sup>15</sup> Yet do not count *him* as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother.

<sup>16</sup> Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all.

<sup>17</sup> The salutation of Paul with my own hand, which is a sign in every epistle; so I write.

<sup>18</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

**Interpretation:** *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. What are Paul's prayer requests to the Thessalonian believers in vv. 1–2?

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2. In what way might the word of the Lord “run swiftly” and “be glorified” (v. 1)? What would need to take place for that to occur, and how are these two ideas related?

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3. Why does Paul emphasize the Lord's faithfulness and ability to “establish” and “guard” the Thessalonians (v. 3)?

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4. From the context in vv. 6–15, what must Paul mean when he refers to the brother[s?] “who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition” (v. 6)?

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5. How does the example of Paul and his team contrast with the disorderly brothers (vv. 7–9)? Why did Paul and his team choose to live as they did (v. 9)?

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6. What does it mean to “work in quietness and eat [one's] own bread” (v. 12)?

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7. What does Paul tell the congregation to do in regard to those who “do not obey” the word in v. 14? What does that mean, and what is the purpose/goal of such action?

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**Application:** *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

8. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

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9. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?

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**Review:** *Take a few moments to look back through your study of 2 Thessalonians.*

10. What are some passages/topics in this book that you found to be particularly challenging or helpful?

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