

1 THESSALONIANS LESSON 1

There is, in my opinion, no doubt at all that the letter to the Thessalonians was written by Paul. Thessalonica was a seaport city. It is actually located in the Macedonian area. This might have been the largest city in Macedonia. The seaport made it a large city. Thessalonica was a mixture of Greeks and Romans. Many Jewish merchants headquartered here as well.

In Thessalonica Paul's main subject to the people was the resurrection of Jesus Christ and His second coming. Paul was definitely the founder of the church in Thessalonica. It was on his second journey that Paul founded the church. There was not as much resistance from the Jews here, as in some of the other areas. Let me say there was much persecution here, but not from Judaizers in the church.

It is believed that this is the first of the letters of Paul to be written. It is also believed that Paul wrote this from Corinth. It was written somewhere around 50 A.D. Give or take a year or two.

Now let us get right into the verse by verse study of the book of Thessalonians. I 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 is a typical Pauline greeting to these people he loved so well. In Corinthians Paul was defending his right to lead them and he reminded them that he was an apostle, called of God. He does not call himself that here, because he knows these people already believe that he was called of God to do this work. He feels that no explanation of who he is, is necessary. Silvanus is the same person as Silas. We know that Paul had high regard for him. They had been imprisoned together for the gospel of Jesus. Of course, Timotheus is Timothy. It was not unusual for them to be with Paul. Timothy was an understudy of Paul. It seems that both Timothy and Silas had helped Paul in the founding of the church at Thessalonica. Paul is very proud of this church. He feels they are grounded in the Truth of the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We have mentioned in other lessons that there is a message in the name "Lord Jesus Christ". Jesus means Jehovah Saviour, Christ means Messiah, the Anointed One. To call Him Lord means that you have turned your will over to Him. Paul wishes unmerited favor for them {grace}. If they know the King of Peace {Jesus Christ} they have perfect peace. Grace and peace are free blessings poured out on mankind by the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Paul never stopped being concerned about the churches that he had begun. He prayed for them regularly. Paul had very little to reprimand them for, he gave thanks to God for them.

I 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;"

It appears from the praise that Paul has for the church at Thessalonica that he is very pleased with their faithfulness to Christianity. We see the main things that are important in the faithful Christian in, faith, hope and love. I Corinthians 13:13 "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these [is] charity." Charity, here is agape, which means God's kind of love. These three, faith, hope and love sum up a Christian. We have faith in Jesus, love His people as he would, and have hope of our resurrection in Him.

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

Because of the faith, love, and hope in the previous verse, God has predestined us to the election of sonship in Him. We had to activate our will and have the faith, love and hope. He elected us to be His because of our decision. Paul says here, there is no question about it, you belong to God.

I 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 was not a man of just words, but of deeds as well. His deeds proved to all that he truly believed the words he brought to them. Paul's power to heal, his power to preach, and his power to endure persecution came from the power of the Holy Ghost within him. Paul is assured that he does not have to explain who he is or what he stands for to these people. They believe in the work of Paul. The "we" in this indicates that Timothy and Silas are known of them, also.

I 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:"

Paul, does not mean that these people became Paulites. They were Christians. They followed Paul because he showed them the way to follow Christ. We know from the book of Acts that Paul was so persecuted here, by the Jews, that Paul had to depart. This was not Jews, in the church. They were Jews who did not believe in Christ. They were not Judaizers. It is so strange that the greatest growth in the church is in time of persecution. The joy, they experienced, then, was not experienced because of things that happened around them, but the opposite. This joy was from within, in spite of the persecutions around them.

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

This is just saying that this church was doing so well that the other churches could look to them as an example of how the church was to function.

I 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."

Paul, is saying here, that their good works speak for them wherever it is known of them. It seems that the gospel had spread from this city to other cities. We do not know whether people off the ships in the harbor came to church and carried the good news of their faith in God to other areas or

whether they actually sent ministers forthwith the gospel of Jesus Christ. We do know that the verse above speaks of a spreading of the Word of God by these Thessalonians to other places, some quite far away. Paul, is just saying, it is a well known fact of how you are spreading the true Word of God. He, also, says, it was not necessary for him to carry the good news about them. The good news of their faith and work in God had spoken for itself.

I 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;"

Not only does Paul not have to tell the other churches about Thessalonica, but the people in the other churches are telling Paul. This had been a society of idol worshippers, but when the Truth was presented to them, they had turned from idol worship, to the worship of the One True God. We had spoken earlier in this lesson how Paul had been empowered by the Holy Ghost. It seems that this church at Thessalonica had been filled with this same power. These people were bearing fruit for Jesus, because they were filled with the Holy Spirit and power. They were living and ministering to others through the power of the Holy Ghost.

I 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."

Paul felt that the coming of the Lord was very near. Of course it was for him, because none of us live much beyond one hundred years old. It is near for each of us, whether we are part of those physical dead who rise first, or whether we are those living who will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. We shall rise, because He arose. Our hope is of the resurrection in Him {Jesus}. Notice, we are delivered from the wrath to come, not the tribulation to come. The wrath of God occurs the last three and one half years of the great tribulation period. When the wrath of God falls on this earth at the end of the Gentile age, we Christians will be standing around the throne of God in heaven. Revelation 7:14 "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." The tribulation was going on and we are taken out of it. The wrath falls on the unbelievers. Ephesians 5:6 "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." Noah was not delivered from the flood, he was delivered in the flood. We are not delivered from tribulation, but in the tribulation. We are saved completely from the wrath of God. Romans 5:9 "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." The Son from heaven, of course, is Jesus Christ our Lord. Notice, that Paul brings up the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead. This letter is about the hope of the resurrection that Christians have because Jesus arose, and also the second coming of Christ. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.

1 Thessalonians 1 Questions

1. Who wrote this letter?
2. Where was Thessalonica located?
3. What nationality was it made up of?
4. What was Paul's main subject in this letter?
5. When had Paul founded this church?
6. Was this an earlier letter or later letter of Paul's to the churches?
7. Where was Paul when he wrote this letter?
8. When was it believed that the letter was written?
9. Who was the other 2 with Paul that Paul mentions in the first verse?
10. Why did Paul not mention in this letter that he was called of God to be an apostle?
11. What is another name that we know Silvanus by?
12. Which one of these men was an understudy to Paul?
13. What are some of the reasons Paul is proud of this church?
14. What message is in the name, "Lord Jesus Christ"?
15. Grace and peace are _____ blessings poured out on mankind by the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
16. What kind of prayers did Paul pray for them?
17. What are three very important things to be found in a Christian?
18. Because of the _____, _____, and _____ God has predestinated them to election of sonship in Him.
19. Paul was not a man of just words, but what?
20. Where did Paul's power to heal, to preach, and to endure persecution come from?
21. These people were not Paulites, but _____.
22. What type of joy is spoken of in verse 6?
23. Who were they ensamples to?
24. What spoke for these Thessalonians and made it unnecessary for Paul to speak for them?
25. This had been a society of _____.
26. They turned from the idols to the _____.
27. What empowered them to minister to others?
28. How do we know we will arise?
29. We are delivered from the _____ to come.
30. Quote Revelation chapter 7 verse 14.
31. Who does the wrath of God come on?
32. Noah was not delivered _____ the flood, but _____ the flood.
33. What justifies us?
34. _____ is the Resurrection and the Life.

We will begin this lesson in I Thessalonians 2:1 "For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:"

Paul is speaking to the Thessalonians themselves in this verse above. Paul says, you know that the message we brought was Truth and you received it unto yourself. It was empowered by the Spirit of God and now you received it so fully that you are empowered with that same Spirit to minister. Paul had asked nothing from them in return for bringing the gospel to them. His reward was in knowing that they received the True Word of God and were transformed into servants of the Most High God.

I 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 never allowed a little persecution to keep him from bringing the gospel message to all who would receive it. Contention, in this verse means conflict or fight. Everywhere Paul went, there seemed to be conflict. Most of his problems came from the Jews. He had been a Pharisee of the Pharisees, before he came in close contact with the Light of the world on the road to Damascus. It seemed the conflict at Philippi had been so great that he had left there and come to Thessalonica. He did not stop preaching because of the conflict, he just moved locations. Paul counted it a pleasure to be able to suffer for Christ and the gospel message. The message that Paul had brought to Thessalonica was not made milder by the conflict, but if anything was even bolder and more sure. Paul's boldness seemed to increase with every persecution.

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

Paul was not a man of untruths. He spoke the message of God, exactly the way the Lord had given it to him. He did not alter the message to please man. Guile, in this verse would possibly mean trick. Paul had not tried to trick anyone. He knew the Jews were caught up in the outward cleanness of a man. He explains that he was not an unclean man. Paul's message was straightforward. He never varied to the right or the left. He spoke Truth.

I 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."

I love the word "allowed" in the verse above. Paul counted it a privilege to be trusted with the gospel message. We should count it a privilege to be allowed to work for God ourselves. Paul spoke as an oracle of God. Paul did not choose what he would say. He turned his tongue over to God and spoke the words as the Spirit gave him utterance. Most ministers today have this all turned around. They are preaching what the people want to hear. The Bible calls that preaching to itching ears. II Timothy 4:3 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;" This verse in Timothy is speaking of ministers called of men to preach, not called of God.

Paul was called of God to carry the message God chose to the people. The people did not always want to hear what the Spirit of God speaking through Paul had to say. It many times stepped on their toes. The Spirit brought out sins in them that they thought no one knew about. God knew. Paul had no desire to please men. His desire was to bring the message God wanted the people to have as accurately as he could. Paul's desire was to please God, not man. If it brought persecution, so be it. God looks on the heart, and judges righteously. He looks on the heart of the minister, and the people he is ministering to. Let me mention, one more time, the gospel is {good news}.

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

Paul was not trying to get anything from them. He did not covet anything that belonged to them. When someone flatters you, they are usually setting you up to get something from you. Paul had none of these desires. He was compelled within himself to bring the Truth of the gospel to all who would receive it. Some believe that Paul was trying to make up for the times when he himself had persecuted the Christians. I really believe that Paul loved God so much that he wanted everyone to know and love God as he did. He was truly grateful that God had loved him enough to turn him around on the right path. I believe that Paul loved God even when he was persecuting Christians. He even thought he was doing that for God. His eyes of his understanding had not been opened where he could see Jesus for who He really is. Paul knew that even if the people did not understand what he was trying to do, God did. He really had to answer to no man but God.

I 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."

We already mentioned in the book on Philippians that Paul would not accept any gifts from any of the churches except the church at Philippi. Paul preached the gospel to them with no strings attached. He did not even ask for an offering from them. We see in this that Paul was not seeking to be thought of as the great apostle. He included Timothy and Silas in this letter right at the beginning. Paul was not looking to be honored by these people. He knew his reward would be in heaven. He did not ask them to think of him as the number one apostle.

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

Paul had made himself as one of them. He had not elevated himself up above the people. His message to them, had been a message of the love of God. He was tenderly teaching them as a parent would his own child.

I 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."

In this, Paul was bringing them the good news of the gospel of Christ, but wanted them to feel the love that he had for them as well. Paul had such great love for them that he would have been willing to face most any hardship to bring them this message that would bring Life to them. He is

also saying that he preached from his heart. He was not trying to scare them out of hell, but love them into heaven.

I 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."

The best way to explain this is with another Scripture. Romans 10:14 "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" I Corinthians 1:21 "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Paul did not stop when the sun went down. He preached into the night when necessary. He also prayed for the people he preached to. The call of God is not an 8 hour a day job. The called of God are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for the rest of their life. Paul is saying that he will not be held responsible by God for not telling them the good news of the gospel. He told them all. He will have a clear conscience when he stands before God.

1 Thessalonians 2 Questions

1. What is Paul saying to them in verse 1?
2. What was the power in the message brought?
3. What was the only reward Paul wanted and got?
4. Where had Paul suffered persecution just before he came to Thessalonica?
5. Did the persecution Paul faced alter the strength of his message?
6. What does "contention", in verse 2, mean?
7. Where did most of Paul's problems come from?
8. What had caused Paul to change from being a Pharisee?
9. He did not stop preaching because of the conflict he just _____.
10. For our exhortation was not of _____, nor of _____, nor in _____.
11. What did "guile", in verse 3, mean?
12. The Jews were caught up in the _____ cleanness of man>
13. What word in verse 4 did the author say he loved?
14. Paul counted it a _____ to be entrusted with the gospel message.
15. What did Paul speak to the people?
16. The Bible calls it preaching to _____ when we preach what the people want to hear.
17. Quote 2 Timothy chapter 4 verse 3.
18. Why did the people sometimes take offense at what Paul preached?
19. What does gospel mean?
20. God was witness that Paul had not done what in his ministering?
21. When someone flatters you, what do they do it?
22. What was Paul truly grateful to God for?
23. Who did Paul have to answer to?
24. Who was the only church Paul would allow to help him financially?
25. What does Paul compare the gentleness of his message to them to in verse 7?
26. What did Paul want them to feel besides the love of God in the gospel message?
27. Why did Paul want to do this?
28. He was not trying to scare them out of _____, but to love them into _____.
29. Quote Romans chapter 10 verse 14.
30. It pleased God to save them that believe by the foolishness of _____.
31. Why would Paul feel no guilt when he stands before God?

We will begin this lesson in I Thessalonians 2:10 "Ye [are] witnesses, and God [also], how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:"

Paul is saying in this that he and those who travelled with him, were a living example of what they preached. He is also telling them that they were eye witnesses of this. He is saying, as God is my witness, we behaved properly to you. Paul, and those ministering with him, were a testimony of the goodness of God. They were, in fact, a walking sermon. I had rather see a sermon, than hear one any day. Paul was a representative of God to these people.

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

The three key words in this are exhorted, comforted, and charged. These three show the progress of a Christian. Exhort in the verse above is a calling into the brotherhood of Christianity by the preaching of Paul. They were then comforted and empowered to minister by the Holy Spirit {Comforter} and the next step would be charged {given the great commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel}. These are the steps that Paul had brought them through as a loving parent would do. The parent prepares the child and then the child goes out to continue this in his children. In this case it is speaking of spiritual children.

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

This is one statement that is being overlooked today among Christians. The preachers are not emphasizing enough that after you receive your salvation {free gift} you must walk in that salvation. If we are truly sons of God, we should behave as our Father would have us to. Pick up your cross daily, is what Jesus said, and then He said, follow me. The only way that we can walk worthy of God is to step in the footprints Jesus laid for us to walk in. God called you, you must answer.

I 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 is like a proud father who is bragging on his children. Paul was proud that God had called them to His kingdom, but he was even more proud that they realized that his message was not his own, but was the message God had sent him with. The Word of God is the One we call Jesus. It is also the Bible. For thousands of years men have tried to prove that the Bible was just like any other book. They cannot do it. The Bible stands alone in the fact that it is alive. It is just as current today as it was two thousand years ago. It is our instruction for living victorious lives. It was the instruction for our great grandparents living victorious lives as well. It is ageless. The Bible is inspired {God breathed}. When I look into the Bible, I see the face of Jesus. All other books, besides the Bible, are of men. The Bible is of God.

I 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:"

To proclaim you were a Christian brought great persecution. In Judaea the persecution of the Christians came from the Jews. Here in Thessalonica it came from all those who did not believe. The church at Thessalonica was a Gentile church. We had mentioned earlier that their persecution had not come from Judaizers in the church, but from the unbelievers from without.

I 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 is placing the blame for the crucifixion of Jesus on the Jews. here. Look, in Jesus' own words, He says the Jews killed the prophets. Matthew 23:31 "Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets." It was the Jews who cried out for Jesus to be crucified. It was the Romans who carried it out. Really, though, you and I nailed Him to the cross. Paul speaks as one who knows. He had been a Jew. The Jew thought himself to be better than all other people. It outraged them that salvation was offered to the Gentile.

I 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 big problem with the Jews who had accepted Jesus as their Saviour, was that they wanted to remain a Jew, as well as being a Christian. They wanted all Gentiles who came to Christ to first fulfill the custom of Jewish circumcision. Paul, Peter, and James and many of the other disciples had gotten together and agreed that this was not part of being a Christian. God had turned to the Gentiles because the Jews as a whole, had rejected Christ as their Messiah, the Saviour of the world. When Paul speaks of we in the verse above, he is speaking of him being a Pharisee. He had been taught from his youth that Gentiles were unclean. Jesus opened his eyes and let him see the truth. To reject the Son of God is a serious thing. Ephesians 5:6 "Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

I 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."

We remember that Paul was in Corinth when he wrote this letter to the Thessalonians. He loved these people and desired to be with them. They were his friends, but Paul thought of them as his children in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was their founding father, and he thought of them as his spiritual children.

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

Paul wanted to come back to minister to them and to visit with them. It would have been like going home, because they had so eagerly accepted Paul

and his teaching here. Satan is the author of all lies and the source of all hindrance to the gospel. Paul's own personal desire was to go to see them, but sometimes our desire is not the desire of the Lord. Satan could not have prevented Paul from going back there any time he wanted to unless God gave Satan permission to do this. Unknowing to Satan, he sometimes plays right into the hands of God. God uses for good what Satan intended for evil. God perhaps had plans for Paul to go to another church at this time. If you are a Christian, Satan has to get God's permission to attack you. Our problems come to make us strong and to show us how badly we need God.

I 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?"

Paul's greatest reward would not be on this earth, but in heaven. He would feel a special joy when those whom he ministered to are able to stand before the Lord and be counted among the believers. Paul would have many stars in his crown for all those he led to the Lord down through the ages. Paul's hope, the same as ours was hope of the resurrection. His joy would be very great because of all those he would be responsible for making the resurrection.

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

A spiritual parent is very much like a physical parent, in the fact that they have more joy over their children doing well than they do when they do well themselves. Paul could depend on these Thessalonians staying firm in their belief until the end. They truly would be his glory and his joy.

1 Thessalonians 3 Questions

1. How had Paul behaved himself in front of these Thessalonians?
2. What was Paul saying in this description of his behavior?
3. Who was the witness that Paul had lived this way among them?
4. What are the three key words in verse 11?
5. What do they show?
6. What is exhort speaking of in verse 11?
7. Tell of the steps Paul had brought them through.
8. What does "walk worthy of God" mean?
9. Pick up your cross _____.
10. What did Paul thank God for without ceasing about these Thessalonians?
11. What is the Word?
12. What sets the Bible aside from other writings?
13. What does inspired mean?
14. Who had the Christians in Judaea suffered by?
15. Who is verse 15 speaking of that killed the Lord Jesus?
16. Who were the Jews forbidden to speak to?
17. What was generally wrong with the Jews who had accepted Christ?
18. Quote Ephesians chapter 5 verse 6.
19. Why did Paul desire to see them again?
20. Who did Paul say had hindered him?
21. Who is the author of all lies?
22. Why do Christians have problems?
23. Quote 1 Thessalonians chapter 2 verse 20.

We will begin this lesson in I Thessalonians 3:1 "Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;"

It seems from this, Paul has taken a short visit to Athens. Possibly, Paul is speaking of Timothy, when he speaks of "we" here. It was Paul's desire to visit Thessalonica again, but it would not be right now.

I 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's desire was to lead these Thessalonians into all truth. The very next best thing to being there himself, would be to send Timothy. We have discussed before, that a Christian never stands still. If the Christian is not growing in the Lord, he will be losing ground. This is the very purpose of Timothy going. He will get them off of the milk and honey of Christianity and get them to the meat of Christianity. There is a growth in the Lord that comes from feeding on His Words every day. There is, also, a growth that comes from facing problems and overcoming them with the Word of God. Paul is highly recommending Timothy to them. He will build them up in their most holy faith.

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

The word "afflictions" is the same as tribulations. Let's look at what Jesus had to say about the Christians having tribulation. John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." You might say, why do we have tribulation? Romans 5:3 "And not only [so], but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;" Romans 5:4 "And patience, experience; and experience, hope:" Romans 5:5 "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." You can easily see the reason for tribulation, is to make us strong in the Lord. We must realize that we are nothing in and of ourself. We realize that our strength is in Christ our Lord. Jesus, our leader, was afflicted, and we will be, too, if we are His.

I 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."

The life of a Christian is not without problems {regardless of what some tell you}. It is a life of self sacrifice. Many ministers today are promising things to their converts that are not realistic. We must learn to live victoriously in the midst of the problems. It rains on the just and on the unjust, but Christians have someone to go to in their time of trouble. We have Jesus to help us. Romans 8:35 " Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" Romans 8:38 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come," Romans 8:39 "Nor height, nor depth, nor

any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I 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 is aware that they have faced great tribulation, and he is not fully persuaded that they were able to handle the crisis. He is sending Timothy to check, and see if they stayed faithful. Paul knows exactly how the devil works. He will bring so great a temptation in our weakest area that many will fall. He just can not wait to find out if they had withstood or not. He is praying that they stood, because he had given them a strong enough foothold in the Word that they would not fall. If they fall, he feels his effort was in vain.

I 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:"

By the time Paul wrote this, he had already heard from Timothy that they had withstood the great temptation. He is delighted that they held strong in their faith and charity. Paul was pleased that they wanted him to come back and minister to them. He reminds them that he desires to come and see them as much as they want him to come.

I Thessalonians 3:7 "Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:"

Paul was very pleased that his spiritual children had been strong in the faith. It seems Paul's afflictions and distress never stopped. Jesus had told Paul, He would show him what great things he would suffer. One of the highest callings we can have, is to suffer for Christ. Just to know that their faith had been so strong encouraged Paul.

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

We see from this, Paul has had new life breathed into his weary soul, because these his converts have kept the faith. When one Christian stands fast in the Lord, it gives the others courage to stand.

I 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 is so grateful of their stand for Christ, he has nothing to pray for them, but praise to God. Again, this is like a parent thanking God for a child who has been obedient to God. What a joy comes in knowing someone you led to the Lord has this much strength and stamina in God. Paul's joy is in his heart.

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

We see from the "night and day" that Paul continuously prays for them. He prays in earnest. Paul desires to come and minister to them, that they might continue to grow in this most holy faith they have begun in. Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

I Thessalonians 3:11 "Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you."

God Himself is our Father. This is showing the unity of Jesus Christ and God the Father. They are one in Spirit. They are one in purpose. When we pray, we pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. Jesus is the Way. Paul is praying that he will be able to see them again. Only God can cause this to be. Paul went where God sent him.

I 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:"

The type of love spoken of here, is the unselfish God love for all of mankind. He loves us even when we are unloveable. If we have taken on the name Christian {Christ-like}, then we must have that unselfish love for every single person in the human race, that Christ had. The world loves, because of what we can do for them, or what we can give them. God loves in spite of all of our faults, asking nothing in return, except that we believe on Him. We must learn to love with the same kind of love that God has for us. Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment." Mark 12:31 "And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

I 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."

If we love the way Paul was speaking of in verse 12, then we will be established in our hearts unblameable before God. We will be in right standing with the Father, because we have washed in the blood of the Lamb {Jesus}, and been made righteous and holy before the Father. The Christians are the saints. Jesus is coming as King of kings and Lord of lords, and the saints will reign with Him.

1 Thessalonians 4 Questions

1. Where had Paul gone to from Corinth?
2. Who does the "we" include in verse 1?
3. Where did Paul want to go?
4. Who did Paul send in his place to Thessalonica?
5. What happens, if a Christian is not growing?
6. Timothy will take them off the _____ and _____ and feed them the meat of the Word.
7. What are 2 ways the Christian grows?
8. What must we use to overcome problems?
9. What is another word for "afflictions"?
10. In the world you shall have _____.
11. Why do we have tribulations?
12. Where is our strength?
13. What difference is there between Christians and non-Christians at problem times?
14. Quote Romans chapter 8 verse 35.
15. What can separate the Christian from the love of God?
16. Why is Paul sending Timothy to check on them?
17. What would make Paul think he had failed with them?
18. What did Timothy report to Paul about these people?
19. In what way were these Thessalonians Paul's children?
20. What had breathed life back into Paul?
21. When Paul prayed for them to the Father, what kind of prayer did he pray?
22. How often did he pray for them?
23. Quote Romans chapter 12 verse 2.
24. What is meant by the names of God in verse 11?
25. What kind of love is spoken of in verse 12?
26. If we are truly Christian {Christ-like}, what must we do?
27. Quote Mark chapter 12 verses 30 and 31.
28. What will establish our hearts unblameable before God?
29. What makes us righteous?
30. Who are the saints?

We will begin this lesson in I 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."

We see in this that Paul is calling them to walk holy before their God. There is only one way to walk that is pleasing to God. That is to walk on the straight and narrow path of righteousness. You might even explain it as walking in the footprints Jesus has left for us. Paul reminds them that Christianity is a daily walk. The word "abound" in this particular instance would mean to live therein. This is speaking of steadfastness in the Lord. Paul has explained and preached before to them about walking uprightly before God. He taught them that the only way to please God is to have faith in Him and walk in His ways. We should, like these people, try to please God and not ourselves. The word "furthermore" shows us that this chapter is directly connected to the chapter before. This is just a further explanation of what God expects from each of us. True, salvation is a free gift. We do not do anything to earn it. It is, however, up to us to walk in the salvation that has been given us. We must walk in newness of life. We must desire to please God in all that we do.

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

Paul is saying, in this, the commandments were God's. He explains that he was the messenger that God sent them by. Everything Paul said to them was as an oracle of God. The Spirit of God put the Words in Paul's mouth and Paul spoke them.

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

Sanctification, in this verse, means purification or holiness. This means that God Himself has purified them for Himself. We are set aside for God's purposes when we are sanctified. We may be in the world, but we are no longer of this world. We are in Christ and He is in us. Abstain, means to hold oneself off. It also means refrain. Fornication means, adultery, incest, idolatry, or harlotry of any kind. This includes homosexual and lesbian acts. We see the seriousness of sexual sin. It is adultery in the physical, but spiritual adultery is included as being forbidden. It is covered in idolatry. Stay away from spiritual adultery and physical adultery, is what Paul is saying.

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

The vessel, here, is our body we are housed in. This is really saying, let your spirit rule over your flesh. Paul, in Corinthians had said we have this treasure in earthen vessels. The flesh of man came from the earth. This then, is speaking of the flesh of mankind. To possess anything, means you have control over it. This is what is being said then, Have control over your flesh and walk holy before your Lord.

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

Concupiscence, means longing for what is forbidden, or lust. The Gentiles, here, are speaking of those who are not Christians. Gentile believers are the spiritual house of Israel. This is speaking of those who are not saved. The Gentiles who know not God are doing whatever is pleasing to the flesh.

I 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."

This is speaking of going beyond the fraud. It includes sin of all kind. This is just saying do not sin against your brother. God sees everything we do against anyone. He especially watches over the brethren. Vengeance is mine saith the Lord.

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

This uncleanness is not in the physical sense. This is uncleanness of the heart. It is not the dirt on the outside of man which destroys him, it is having an unclean heart. Our call is to be a sermon to others in the way we conduct our daily lives.

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

When we despise man, we are despising God's creation, because God made man. When we despise the creation of God, we are actually finding fault with the Creator, who made this creation. It is impossible for flesh man not to despise, but when we become spirit man, with the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, the Spirit within us knows only love. He loves the unloveable through us.

I 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."

The great commandment that Jesus gave unto us was to love God with everything within us. The second commandment was like unto it. Look with me at what it is. Matthew 22:39 "And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." This is printed in red in my Bible which means that Jesus, Himself said this. The brotherly love spoken of above is loving your brother as you do yourself. Paul says, Jesus made it so clear, there is no need for me to add to that.

I 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;"

Paul is saying to them that the type of love that they have for their fellows in the church there is very good. He just wants them to expand that type of love to all of humanity. It is easy for us to love our neighbors that we see every day. We understand them. Paul is saying, love the stranger, whom you do not have much in common with.

I 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;"

We are seeing in this a description of the character traits that will follow those who are believers in Christ. Proverbs 9:13 "A foolish woman [is] clamorous: [she is] simple, and knoweth nothing." It is impossible to learn if you are talking all the time. Be a good listener and thereby show that you are wise in the Lord. We should never take on someone else's work to do. We should be doing {to the best of our ability} the job that God has called us to do. I, for one, want to be found working when the Lord comes to get me. God has a job for each of us to do. It is not the same job as someone else. It is unique in the fact that you are the only one called to do that specific job. Find out what the will of God is for your life and get busy doing it.

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

The only contact that some people have with God is, the God they see operating in your life. You are a living witness by the way you conduct your life. If you live Christ-like before them, they see Christ in your walk. If you walk the worldly life, you lead them to destruction.

I 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."

The hope spoken of here, is the hope of the resurrection. Those who have not accepted Jesus as their Saviour, have no hope, because He is Life. Ignorant would mean uninformed, in the verse above. This is the beginning verse of Scriptures that are used at many funerals to comfort those who have lost loved ones. One of the greatest promises made to those who believe is that the death of the body is not eternal death of the spirit. Because Jesus arose from the grave, all believers in Christ will arise with Him to new life in Him. There should not really be sorrow for a Christian who sheds this sinful flesh and goes to live eternally with God. Paul is speaking here of the Christians who have died to this world. They have experienced physical death.

I 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."

My own personal belief about death is, the instant we draw our last breath, our spirit goes to be in heaven with Jesus. Our body {the house we moved out of} goes to the grave. That body was made from the dust of the earth and it must return to dust. The real me is the spirit that was housed in that body. There is a physical body and there is a spiritual body. It is the spiritual body that rises. To really understand this you must read 1 Corinthians chapter 15 beginning with verse 15. Read it all the way to the end of the chapter. I will give just a sample of that here. I Corinthians 15:44 "It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." I Corinthians 15:45 " And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit." Notice the statement "will God bring with Him". I believe the spirit of the Christian is with God in heaven immediately after death. There is a later, resurrection of the body. We do know, that

even now the Martyred Christians are in heaven crying how long. Revelation 6:10 "And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" We do know that the body of Jesus came out of the tomb. We do know that it was different enough that the disciples did not recognize His body. We do know that the body still had the marks of the nails. We do know that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. {Read 2 Cor. chapter 5 verse 8.}

I 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."

This was a revelation that Paul had gotten from God. Paul was looking for the coming of the Lord to be at any second. Today it seems even more evident that the coming of Christ is very near. There is a generation of people who will be alive when the Lord Jesus comes. My own personal belief is that it is our generation. It really does not matter whether we go by the way of the grave, or whether we will be living at His coming. If we are alive, we will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Flesh and blood do not inherit the kingdom, so those living will have to be changed to an incorruptible, spiritual body.

I 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 trumpet that gathered the people, throughout the Bible was a silver trumpet. This trump that is blown will be silver, because it will redeem the people from this earth. Silver means redemption. The reason there is no silver in heaven is because we have already been redeemed. This is the last chronological mention of silver in the Bible. The voice of the Lord and the trump are so enveloped in one, that it is hard to separate the one from the other. We can see in the following verse that many times the voice is spoken of as a trumpet. Isaiah 58:1 "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." This shout will wake the dead. This is the same shout that brought Lazarus from the grave. The dead in Christ just means that these will rise before the living in Christ who will be changed and rise. In Jude, Michael is spoken of as the archangel. My belief is that Michael is like a general under Jesus. Whether the archangel is actually sounding or whether this is the voice of Jesus who is now King of kings and Lord of lords, I am not certain. It really does not matter. We know that this pure sound calls the Christians from the earth.

I 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."

"We which are alive" is speaking of the Christians alive at the coming of Christ who will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. I Corinthians I Corinthians 15:51 "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, "I Corinthians 15:52 "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." 15:53 "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on

immortality." I Corinthians 15:54 "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."

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

Christians should have no fear of death. We should be comforted to know that there is an eternity of life awaiting us with the Lord Jesus. The beginning of the 14th chapter of John tells us exactly why we should not let our heart be troubled or afraid. When a Christian dies, we should celebrate their homegoing, not grieve deeply for their departing. We are really grieving for us who were left behind.

1 Thessalonians 5 Questions

1. What kind of walk is Paul trying to get them to walk in verse 1?
2. What is the only walk pleasing unto God?
3. What does "abound" in verse 1 mean?
4. What does the word "furthermore" in verse 1 tell us?
5. Whose were these commandments that Paul was speaking to them?
6. The _____ of God put the words in Paul's mouth and Paul spoke them.
7. What does "sanctification" in verse 3 mean?
8. What does "abstain" mean?
9. What sins are covered in "fornication"?
10. What is spiritual adultery covered in?
11. What is the "vessel" spoken of in verse 4?
12. What does "possess" mean?
13. "Concupiscence" means what?
14. Who are the Gentiles in verse 5?
15. God hath not called us to _____, but unto _____.
16. When we despise God's creation, who are we really despising?
17. What was the second commandment that Jesus gave?
18. They were loving their brothers in all Macedonia, but what more were they to do?
19. Study to be _____.
20. Quote Proverbs chapter 9 verse 13.
21. We are to walk honestly toward them that are _____.
22. In verse 13 Paul said I would not have you to be _____.
23. What is the hope spoken of in verse 13?
24. What does "ignorant" mean?
25. What is one of the greatest promises made to the believers, about death of the body?
26. Quote 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verse 14.
27. What is the authors personal opinion about death?
28. What two kinds of body do we have?
29. Where are the Martyred Christians now?
30. _____ and _____ do not inherit the kingdom of heaven.
31. What happens to the Christians who are alive when the Lord returns?
32. Who shall rise first?
33. What was the trumpet that gathered the people made of?
34. Why is it silver?
35. Who is called an archangel in Jude?
36. Quote 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verse 17.
37. Who is "we which are alive" speaking of?
38. This corruptible must put on _____.
39. This mortal must put on _____.
40. Why should we not fear death?

We will begin this lesson in I Thessalonians 5:1 "But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you."

Paul had no more idea of when this would happen than you and I do. He was like us, in that he was to watch and be ready. The Lord comes in an hour when we think not. Paul had gone into detail about what they could expect at the coming of Christ. Now their part is to watch and be ready. God did not intend for any of us to know the exact hour. We are, however, children of the light. Ephesians 5:8 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now [are ye] light in the Lord: walk as children of light:" These Thessalonians and all Christians of today should walk in the light, expecting that glorious coming of the Lord. We should live our lives, as if today were that day.

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

Jesus explains in the following Scripture that no man knows the exact time of the return of Christ. Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." If people knew the hour He was coming, they could be bad until just an hour or so before and then come to Christ. He does not want us to come to Him because we fear the wrath of God, but because we love Him and want to please Him. He has a purpose in this coming as a thief in the night. Of course, this has come for everyone at the end of their life on earth. Those of one generation will not taste of death. He will come in the same manner that He went. Acts 1:11 "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." He went up with a cloud and will come back the same way.

I 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."

When the unbelieving shall say it is a time of peace, then shall be sudden destruction. We know the peace talks are going on all over the world today. This is one sure sign that the end is near. We see in the comparison here of the woman having a child, the suddenness of the birth pains. Suddenly, unawares to her, the pains of birth begin. The world at peace has no idea that sudden destruction is upon them. The rain in the days of Noah came suddenly. It had never rained on the earth before. It was a surprise to the unbelieving world, but not to Noah.

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

The Christians have the Light of Jesus to show the way. The Bible tells us of all sorts of signs that will be just before the destruction. Matthew chapter 24 has a nice list of things that will happen. Most of them have already occurred. All true Christians have a sort of anticipation of this now.

I 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."

Darkness obscures our view. The light makes manifest. We can see clearly in the Light. Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. If we are Christians, we are of the Light. Satan is darkness to the utmost. Darkness, is the absence of the Light. Children of darkness, have not received the Light.

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

This does not mean that we are not to rest in sleep. This is speaking of spiritual sleep. Do not be unaware. The watching and waking is learning all we can about the Light {Jesus}. Let His Light shine so brightly within us that it will do away with all darkness. Sober, in verse 6 above, means to abstain from wine. In other words, don't be drunk when the Lord comes back.

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

Most sins are committed at night. Whoever is sinning, seems to think the darkness will cover the sin. In daytime most people are working. The light of day keeps many sins from occurring.

I 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."

Not only are we to be sober, but we are to be doing the things God would have us doing. The things mentioned here are part of the armour of God. The breastplate covers the heart. This is saying then, let faith and love be so full in your heart that it covers your chest. We know how important faith is, because without faith it is impossible to please God. In Romans chapter 10 verse 9 it speaks of believing in our heart. Then faith is a product of a heart of love stayed upon God. The brain is in the head. The logic of salvation is what is meant by the helmet. We believe in our heart, but the mind gets up in the logic of it all. Salvation is sensible to the thought of mankind. All people want the hope of salvation.

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

We have discussed this before, but the wrath of God occurs the last 3 and 1/2 years of the 7 year tribulation period. God's wrath is saved for those who do not believe in Jesus as their Saviour. The thing that saves us is belief in our heart that Jesus is the Christ risen from the dead on the third day. We must confess Him with our mouth. We obtain salvation through Jesus Christ. He is the Way, the Truth, the Life. No man cometh to the Father, but by Him. He is the door we must enter to reach the Father. When we enter Him, heaven is on the other side.

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

Jesus died in our place. He was our Substitute. He paid our penalty for sin, which is death. He gave His body on the cross for our sin that we might obtain life through Him. This is just saying that the dead in Christ and the living in Christ at His coming will partake together of the life in Him.

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

He is saying that we should take comfort in the knowledge that we will live in Him. We should build each other up, reminding those who have grown weary waiting. He says, why am I telling you this, you already do this?

I 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;"

God has an order in the church as well as in heaven. The pastor is the leader of the congregation as the shepherd is the flock of sheep. He teaches the truth. He leads the flock, by teaching from the Word of God. The job of the pastor is to teach the congregation how to live victorious lives in Jesus.

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

This just means that the congregation who have chosen to follow a certain pastor, should have respect for the office of pastor. The work the pastor of the church does is to benefit the congregation. You should love and respect them for the work they do for God. This is saying live in peace.

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

It is the job of the leaders in the church to warn one in the congregation who is unruly. Sometimes it can be done with a sermon to the whole church. If that does not work, then they should be talked to kindly, but firmly. It is not good to allow someone to be unruly in the church. The pastor must keep order to have effective sermons. We should all help the feebleminded. This could also be those who are depressed to the point of being feebleminded. The job of the church is to help those who cannot help themselves. The weak, could mean several things here, one of which would be mental illness. Patience is one of the gifts that show when the Spirit of God is in your life.

I 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]."

Christians are to turn the other cheek. We are not to try to get even for a wrong that has been done. Be kind to those who classify themselves as your enemies. Kill them with kindness.

I Thessalonians 5:16 "Rejoice evermore."

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.

I Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

We may not be able to pray aloud every minute of every day, but we can have a prayer in our heart at all times. This also means continue to pray until the answer comes. The fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

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

Notice, that even the bad things that happen to us are the will of God for that moment. Troubles come to teach us to lean more on Jesus. Every problem that we overcome through faith in Him, makes us stronger than we were before. Knowing all of this, how can we do less than to praise Him in all things and at all times.

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

The Spirit of God within us is given so that we might minister more boldly. This same Holy Spirit is our Teacher and our Guide. He is our Comforter. Only a fool would quench any of these things. When we quench not the Spirit, we allow the Spirit of God to minister through us.

I Thessalonians 5:20 "Despise not prophesyings."

What is prophesyings? In this instance, it means predictions. God has used this method to bring warnings to His people throughout the ages. We should love to hear from God what is going to happen. The only way we would despise them is if we know we are guilty of displeasing God and they are warnings to us.

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

This is the same thing as trying the spirits to see whether they are of God or not. We must stand firmly on the Word of God and then we will not fail. Don't believe everything you hear. Check it out with the Word of God.

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

We know that it is bad to do evil, but we see here that it is bad to even give the appearance of evil. The world is looking at how you conduct your life. If you give the appearance of evil, you might cause your weaker brother to sin.

I 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."

The God of peace is Jesus Christ. It is in Him that we are acceptable to God the Father. We are clothed in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. He took our sin on His body and clothed us in our white linen garment free from sin, washed in His precious blood. The spirit is what we are. The body is the house the spirit dwells in. They are in constant warfare trying to control our soul, which is the will of man. Man is a spirit, living in a body with a soul. Blameless is the same as being justified {just as if I had never sinned}. Jesus wiped the slate clean when He gave His body for our sin. We received this cleansing when we received Jesus as our Saviour. It is

our obligation to walk in the salvation we received. Walk in Him and you will be ready when He returns.

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

God is not only faithful, but He cannot and will not lie. The Truth cannot lie. God is the Truth. He fulfills every promise He made.

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

Not only should the pastor pray for his flock, but the congregation should pray for their leader. I say with Paul, pray for me.

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

This is not speaking of a passionate kiss between a woman and a man, but is speaking of a warm greeting. If a kiss, a kiss on the cheek.

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

We see from this verse that this letter is not just for the church at Thessalonica, but to all who love God.

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

Paul always speaks a benediction over all of his converts. We can say with Paul, so be it.

1 Thessalonians 6 Questions

1. Why did Paul not tell them the hour and day of the coming of Christ?
2. When are we assured the Lord will come back?
3. Quote Ephesians chapter 5 verse 8.
4. The day of the Lord comes as a _____ in the _____.
5. Who knows the day and hour that the Lord will return?
6. Quote Acts chapter 1 verse 11.
7. When they shall say peace and safety, what comes?
8. What is this sudden coming of the Lord compared to?
9. What is one very good sign that the end is near?
10. When was the first rain upon the earth?
11. Why will the day of the Lord, not overtake the Christian unaware?
12. Where do we find a lot of the things listed that will come before the Lord's return?
13. What are Christians called in verse 5?
14. What does the word "sober" in verse 6 mean?
15. They that be drunken are drunken in the _____.
16. Put on the breastplate of _____ and _____.
17. Put on the helmet of _____.
18. God hath not appointed us unto _____.
19. Who is God's wrath reserved for?
20. _____ was our substitute.
21. Who is the leader of the congregation?
22. Why should you love and respect him?
23. Who must warn the unruly in the church?
24. Be _____ to those who classify themselves as your enemy.
25. Pray without _____.
26. What are we to give thanks for?
27. _____ not the Spirit.
28. What does prophesying in verse 20 mean?
29. Abstain from all _____ of evil.
30. Who is the God of Peace?
31. Greet all the brethren with an _____.
32. Quote 1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 28.

The second letter was probably written from Corinth, as well as the first. Paul was the penman. It was probably written soon after the first letter. It seems that the church at Thessalonica had the mistaken idea that the Lord was coming back immediately. This letter is about the second coming of Christ.

We will begin now in II Thessalonians 1:1 "Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:"

We see the same three names associated with this letter as we did with the first letter. We see in this greeting, Paul is agreeing that these Thessalonians are in Christ. This is not a church that has strayed away. It is a church that has made up it's mind that the Lord Jesus is coming back right then. It is grounded and rooted in the Father and in the Lord Jesus.

II Thessalonians 1:2 "Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

This is a greeting that Paul uses very often. It makes this letter most assuredly Paul's letter.

II Thessalonians 1:3 "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;"

Paul has no complaint about their faith, or their charity. This is a church that is growing in the knowledge of God. They are more than generous helping with the others needs. The only thing that could be wrong with this is if they are doing this because they think the Lord will be back immediately. If they are giving from a free heart, there is no error in that.

II Thessalonians 1:4 "So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:"

Paul is using this church at Thessalonica as an example to the other churches of how they should conduct their affairs. He knows the persecutions have been great, they have endured them like good soldiers. They are not only generous in their giving, but they are patient, as well. It seems that Paul can find no fault with them. Paul is simply amazed at their faith and patience under such tribulations and persecutions.

II Thessalonians 1:5 "[Which is] a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:"

"Manifest" is to make real. It seems they are enduring this suffering for the possibility of being counted worthy before God. Romans 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together." I Peter 2:20 "For what glory [is it], if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye

shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer [for it], ye take it patiently, this [is] acceptable with God."

II Thessalonians 1:6 "Seeing [it is] a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;"

If these people remain patient and in the faith even when they are being persecuted, the people doing the persecuting will be punished by God. Romans 12:20 "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head." God fights our battles for us. Vengeance is His, not ours. We should be kind to our enemies, as well as our friends.

II Thessalonians 1:7 "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,"

There is a rest for the believers. Look, with me, at what Jesus had to say about this very thing. Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." The rest for the Christian is in Jesus. Hebrews 4:9 "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." There will be no sorrow in heaven. These mighty angels that are with Him are the ministering spirits to do His commands. At one point, they are to put in the sickle and reap the earth at His command. The Christians, themselves, will be like the angels in heaven.

II Thessalonians 1:8 "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:29 "For our God [is] a consuming fire." So many times in the Bible, God is associated with fire. John the Baptist said, that he baptized with water, but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire. Holy God cannot look upon sin, He will burn it up. We all know that the wheat will be gathered into the heavenly barn, and the tares will be burned. Look what Jesus said about this very thing. Matthew 13:30 "Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn." There are only two choices a person can make. Following Jesus brings life eternal, but to reject Jesus brings eternal damnation. Revelation 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." The question is, have you received Jesus Christ as your Saviour and had your name written in the Lamb's book of life? If you have not, read Revelation chapter 20 verse 15, one more time.

II Thessalonians 1:9 "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"

We see that the ones to be punished are all who do not accept Jesus as their Saviour. This is the separation of the sheep and the goats in the book of Matthew. The followers of Christ, of course, are his sheep. The really sad thing is, that even some who proclaim Christianity will not be acceptable as we read in the following verse. Matthew 7:22 "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" Matthew 7:23 "And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." You see, just professing Christianity does

not make you a Christian. We are Christians when we become new creatures in Christ. I will say one more time, there are only two choices. It is up to us where we spend all of eternity. We can choose Jesus and spend eternity in heaven with Him. The other choice is to reject Jesus and spend eternity in hell, totally separated from God. Hell is not only a fire, but a terrible darkness. One of the torments of hell is the fact that the lost will not be able to see the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.

II Thessalonians 1:10 "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."

The punishment, spoken of in the previous verses, will happen when the things spoken in verse 10 above, occur. Paul is saying, because his testimony was believed when he preached to them, they would grow in the Lord until He comes. We know that the Lord is glorified in the saints, when they become so full of Him that the world looking on sees Jesus in them. This brings glory and honor to the Father and Jesus. We, Christians, in the day of the Lord will be clothed in white linen washed in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We will have taken on His righteousness. We have been made acceptable in the Father's sight through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus. In my opinion, admired is not strong enough for the feeling we have. The feeling is great admiration and love for what Jesus did for us, but even more for who He is to us.

II Thessalonians 1:11 "Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of [this] calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of [his] goodness, and the work of faith with power:"

For Christ to be glorified in us, we must grow in him to the extent that we will be a reflection of the Lord Jesus. Many are called, but few are chosen. Paul is not speaking just to the heads of the churches here, but to all who have been called of God to be Christians. Every Christian is a minister for Christ. Paul prays that they will live the salvation they have received. It appears that Paul is trying to convey to them the necessity to walk uprightly before the Lord. The very life we live is a sermon to the world around us. We either draw people closer to God with our walk, or we drive them further away. This prayer of Paul's is speaking of their walk, more than just a one time conversion. The constant faith we have in Him causes us to turn our will over to His will. The power to minister comes from the Holy Spirit within us. Jesus told the disciples that they would receive power after the Holy Ghost had come upon them. Look, with me, at the power He gave them, and what it was to be used for. This is in the Words of Jesus. Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

II Thessalonians 1:12 "That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

This is said best in Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;" This shows great reverence for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. By grace are you saved. Salvation is for whosoever will. God loved us while we were yet in sin. He sent Jesus as our Saviour. He must be made

Lord of our life for the things we have been talking about to be. It is Christ in me, the hope of glory. The name of our Lord Jesus Christ is glorified when we are Christian in the true sense of the word. Christians are followers of and believers in the Lord Jesus. We become Christ-like, if we make Him Lord of our lives.

2 Thessalonians 1 Questions

1. Where was this letter probably written from?
2. Who was the penman of the this letter?
3. What mistaken idea did these people in the church of Thessalonica have?
4. What is this letter all about?
5. What complimentary thing does Paul say to them in the first verse?
6. Quote verse 2.
7. What two good things did Paul have to say about them in verse 3?
8. What, possibly, could be wrong with what they are doing?
9. What church did Paul use as an example for the other churches?
10. Paul says they are counted worthy for _____ of _____.
11. What does "manifest" mean?
12. Quote Romans chapter 8 verse 17.
13. Who will God bring tribulation on?
14. Quote Romans chapter 12 verse 20.
15. Who does verse 7 say will be with Jesus at His return?
16. Quote Hebrews chapter 4 verse 9.
17. Who will be like the angels?
18. Who does He take vengeance on?
19. Quote Hebrews chapter 12 verse 29.
20. Who is cast into the fire?
21. Quote Matthew chapter 7 verses 22 and 23.
22. Besides the torment of the fire, what terrible thing occurs?
23. Jesus will be glorified in whom?
24. What will the Christians be clothed in at that day?
25. We should admire Jesus for what He did for us, but we should admire Him more for what?
26. Paul prayed that God would count them worthy of their _____.
27. Every _____ is a minister for Christ.
28. What is Paul trying to convey to them?
29. Where does the power to minister come from?
30. Quote Philippians chapter 2 verse 10.

We will begin this lesson in II Thessalonians 2:1 "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and [by] our gathering together unto him,"

Paul, in this first verse, is recognizing the fact that these things are valid to believe. He is not telling them not to believe in these things. He is saying, they might not be coming in just a few days. This was the stir in Thessalonica. They had decided that the second coming of Christ was to be immediately. Paul says, I believe it too, but let us look clearer to when this shall take place. All Christians should believe in the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is coming for those who are looking for Him. Our "gathering together unto Him", is the same as the time when the trump of God blows in the sky, and we go to meet our Lord in the sky. The silver trumpet of redemption {the trump of the gathering} will blow, and we shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye to an incorruptible being.

II Thessalonians 2:2 "That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand."

This is the purpose of the letter. They had decided that His coming would be in the next few days or weeks, and they had been shaken in their spirit because of this. We do know that for each person there is no more than a 100 years to wait, because if they go the way of the grave, they die within 100 years. This really is not speaking of that. This is the fact that they were expecting Him to come while they were alive, and were setting a time schedule on this. They were overly excited thinking the time was really soon. It is dangerous to set times.

II Thessalonians 2:3 "Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;"

This "apostasy", spoken of here, as a falling away from the church was not evident then, but is certainly going on today in the church. Before the coming of the Lord, there will be a great falling away from the church. The son of perdition, here, is speaking of the devil spirit in the antichrist. This is speaking of the man of perdition bringing sin in the church. Judas Iscariot was spoken of as son of perdition. This does not mean that it is Judas. It means someone who has sold out to Satan. He is totally controlled by Satan. The reason people will listen to, and follow this man of sin, is that he will do wonders. The Bible says he will even be able to call down fire from heaven. You may read about this in the 13th chapter of Revelation. I personally believe this man of sin has already begun his nasty work.

II Thessalonians 2:4 "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

If he is not for Christ, he is antichrist. This has been the old devil's trick ever since Lucifer was thrown out of heaven. He wanted to be greater than God. He always appeals to the ego of man. His trick with Eve was telling her the fruit of the tree would make her wise like God. He lied

then, and he has lied to the antichrist as well. He uses people vulnerable to believe his lies. The antichrist is not satisfied with being opposed to Christ, but actually wants to sit in the place of God in the temple. He appears as an angel of light. II Corinthians 11:14 "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." There are several opinions of where he will be seated; some believe in the temple in Jerusalem, others believe that he will take his place as the authority in the church of the Christians. Paul many times spoke of the believers in Christ as the temple of God. We do know that a Moslem temple presently sits over the location of the temple in Jerusalem. One, or all of these things, perhaps, will happen. It really does not matter. Our job is to be so full of the Word of God that we will not be deceived into believing the antichrist. It is a dangerous thing to want to be God.

II Thessalonians 2:5 "Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?"

Paul is reminding them that he had preached about these very things, when he was with them. It is a wonderful thing to be looking for the soon coming of the Lord, but it is a bad thing to let it trouble you. Paul is saying, shame on you for not realizing that God will see you through whatever situation you find yourself in, if you will put your trust in Him.

II Thessalonians 2:6 "And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time."

God has a time schedule when all of these things will happen. The man of sin cannot appear and do these things, until the Lord gives him permission to go ahead. Satan cannot do anything without permission from God to do it. Satan is not in control, the Lord is. The antichrist will appear on the scene, when God gets ready for him to and not one minute earlier.

II Thessalonians 2:7 "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way."

We know this to be true, because we know that the spirit of the devil entered into Judas Iscariot, and he betrayed Jesus. There has always been a battle going on with good and evil ever since the garden of Eden. Man has a free will. He can follow Jesus, or he can follow Satan. The antichrist would not have to be the antichrist, if he would follow Jesus. The antichrist has chosen to be an instrument of Satan. The flesh of mankind has always been opposed to the spirit of mankind. The temptations of the flesh are what causes mankind to sin. The free will of mankind chooses to follow the flesh, or the spirit. Mystery is many times veiled around evil. We know that even Babylon is called, mystery Babylon. It is definitely a mystery why anyone would follow evil instead of good. The only answer to that, is they have fallen for a deception. All who oppose Christ are antichrist, but there is a person who personifies this in the end time, and he is the antichrist. When the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit as teacher and guide is removed, then the antichrist will bring lawlessness and sin like the world has never known. Even now this influence is working in the children of disobedience.

II Thessalonians 2:8 "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:"

The workings of the evil one are in the world even now, but the teaching by the Holy Spirit of God is keeping him from having the influence he would over the people. When that wicked day comes, the antichrist will have great power. He will no longer be working in secret and in a subtle way. "The Spirit of the Lord's mouth" is the Word of God. Truth does away with deception. The Word of God is Truth. His brightness is above all other brightness in the world. He is the source of all Light. His Light completely destroys darkness in the world. Darkness can not remain where the Light is. This Light reveals all. We have spoken over and over how evil is the darkness of this world. We, also, know that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. When these two meet, Jesus' Light does away with all darkness.

2 Thessalonians 2 Questions

1. What is Paul recognizing in verse 1?
2. What was the stir in Thessalonica?
3. What is meant by "gathering together unto Him"?
4. What is the trump of gathering?
5. What will the Christians who are alive be turned into at His coming?
6. Be not soon shaken in _____, or be _____, neither by _____, nor by _____, nor by _____ as from us.
7. What is the purpose of this letter?
8. That day shall not come, except there be a _____ away first.
9. What is this "apostasy"?
10. Who is the son of perdition?
11. Where does this son of perdition bring the sin?
12. Who was spoken of as son of perdition in one instance in the New Testament?
13. Why will people listen to this man?
14. What is one specific miracle he will do?
15. How high does this man of sin exhalt himself?
16. Those who are not for Christ are _____.
17. The devil always appeals to the _____ of man.
18. Where do we find the Scripture that says, Satan is transformed into an angel of light?
19. What can we do to not be deceived by the antichrist?
20. What did Paul remind them of in verse 5?
21. Why can the man of sin not appear, when he wants to?
22. The _____ of man has always been opposed to the _____ of man.
23. What causes man to sin?
24. We know that Babylon is called _____ Babylon.
25. What is the restraining influence?
26. What will happen when He is removed?
27. How shall the Lord consume that wicked one?
28. What is "the Spirit of the Lord's mouth"?
29. Who is the source of all Light?
30. Light does away with all _____.

We will begin this lesson in II Thessalonians 2:9 "[Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,"

In the last lesson, we talked about this man of sin who would come in the end of the age. We, also, saw that even though he had great power, he was no match for the Lord. The Lord will consume him with the Spirit of His mouth which is the Word of God. He {the evil one} will be destroyed by the Light of the Lord. You can easily see from the verse above that he had some power, but it is overcome by the power of the Lord. Many will be deceived, because they base their belief on signs and wonders. We should base our belief on the Word of God, and then we will not be deceived. We learned in Exodus that the evil magicians could do some of the miracles that Moses did by the power of God, but they could not do all of them. We know then that their power is limited.

II Thessalonians 2:10 "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved."

We see from this, that some will believe this deception. Just as Eve was deceived in the garden, many will be deceived by this man of sin. Antichrist just means against Christ. The Truth in the Word of God will set you free. Try the spirits, and see whether they be of God, or not. Any spirit that does not elevate Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord is the anti-christ spirit.

II Thessalonians 2:11 "And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:"

Since they are not interested in the Truth of God, they will fall for a lie. Temptation is always around us to sin and to believe a lie. The protection we have is the Truth of God. God sent the Truth to those who will accept Him. Those who rejected Him, will be sent strong delusion as punishment.

II Thessalonians 2:12 "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

I have said over and over, we are a free agent. We can follow God and be saved, or we can follow Satan and be doomed to hell. There are only two kinds of people really, those who believe in Jesus Christ unto salvation, and those who do not believe who are damned to hell. The flesh life will lead a person into damnation. All unrighteousness is sin. Those who practice sin are not of God, they are of their father the devil. When we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are made righteous in the sight of God. We are washed in the blood of the Lamb {Jesus} and put in right standing with God. Those who reject Jesus, remain in their unrighteousness.

II Thessalonians 2:13 "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"

Paul is saying, that God chose them for salvation from the foundation of the earth. This looks like predestination, but I believe Paul is speaking of the fact that God foreknew that they would believe. You see, they had to believe the Truth, before they were set aside for God's purposes {sanctified}. Salvation is offered to whosoever will. This is saying, that God knew at the beginning, because He saw into the future those who would believe. Notice, in the verse above, Spirit is capitalized meaning that this was speaking of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit of God that leads us into all Truth. The Word is the Truth. The Holy Spirit teaches us the meaning of the Scriptures.

II Thessalonians 2:14 "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Paul now explains that God sent the gospel by Paul to them. I Corinthians 1:21 "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Paul says, they were touched in their spirit at the bringing of the good news of the gospel by him and were saved. The glory of the cross, was for the Father and the Son, but was also for all who would believe. To believe makes us one with the Father and the Son. His inheritance is our inheritance. I Peter 1:3 "Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," I Peter 1:4 "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you," I Peter 1:5 "Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

I Peter 1:6 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:"

We, Christians, should greatly rejoice, knowing the wondrous provision He has made for us. While we are in this life, we will have temptations. They come to make us strong in the Lord. Every time we overcome a temptation, we grow a little bit. Job faced many temptations and never faltered at all. When we are going through difficult times, we should read about Job and how he lasted through it all. Hold firm to the faith and great will be your rewards in heaven. I Timothy 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." Mark 13:13 "And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

II Thessalonians 2:15 "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."

Paul is encouraging them to stand fast in their faith. Paul had taught them the Truth in his sermons and is, also, teaching them the Truth in the letters he writes to them. He explains to them that this teaching will be the only thing they should accept. They should not listen to every wind of doctrine that comes along. Stay with their first love, and do not wander, and they will remain steadfast in the Lord. Many people today are constantly looking for some new doctrine. That is a very dangerous thing to do. Stay with the pure Word of God. The daily study of the Bible is the best recommendation I can make for staying with the Truth. Make sure the Bible

you read is not watered down to tickle the ears of those who do not want to conform to God.

II Thessalonians 2:16 "Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,"

Our consolation and hope lies in Jesus Christ our Lord. Consolation in the verse above means comfort. By grace are you saved. It is a free gift. The hope of the resurrection is what comforts all of us. We are not like the world, who have no hope. We are looking for that city whose maker is God. The greatest love known to man is that the Father would give His Son for a world of lost sinners. This message is not just from Paul, but from the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself.

II Thessalonians 2:17 "Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."

Paul is saying, God will help us to the end. Stay with the Truth in the Word, and work to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. We work, not from obligation, but in Love and praise of our Father who first loved us. Be established, do not be wishy-washy.

2 Thessalonians 3 Questions

1. Why will so many be deceived by this man of sin?
2. When will the man of sin appear?
3. Who is more powerful than the man of sin?
4. What will the Lord consume him with?
5. The evil one will be destroyed by the _____ of the _____.
6. What did we learn in Exodus about the evil magicians?
7. Eve was _____ in the garden of Eden.
8. Try the spirits, and see whether they be of _____, or not.
9. Any spirit that does not elevate Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord is of the _____.
10. The _____ in the Word of God will set you free.
11. Who sends them strong delusion?
12. What happens to those who do not believe the Truth?
13. Who chooses whether we go to heaven or hell?
14. All unrighteousness is _____.
15. When are we made righteous in the sight of God?
16. When had God chosen them unto salvation?
17. What does "sanctified" mean?
18. The _____ _____ leads us into all Truth.
19. It pleased God by the foolishness of _____ to save them who believe.
20. Who was the glory of the cross for?
21. Quote 1 Peter chapter 1 verses 3 and 4.
22. While we are in this life, we will have _____.
23. Why do we have temptations or trials?
24. Who faced many temptations and held strong?
25. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 6 verse 12.
26. Quote Mark chapter 13 verse 13.
27. What two ways had Paul taught them?
28. How should you choose a Bible to read?
29. Where does the Christian's consolation and hope lie?
30. What is the greatest love known to man?
31. We work not for obligation, but in _____ and _____ of our Father.

We will begin this lesson in II Thessalonians 3:1 "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have [free] course, and be glorified, even as [it is] with you:"

Paul had given them instruction in the last lesson to stay steadfast in the Word of God. He knew they had been taught the Truth of the gospel, and he was reminding them to stay close to what they had learned from him. Paul is very pleased with this church, and the way they had conducted themselves. Now, he feels that he should praise them for their steadfastness on the course he had set them. He was pleased with the results he had seen from them. His request for them to pray for the Word of God to be spoken freely from him, was not just a statement, but showed that he had great confidence in them. We have said so many times, the power in this world is the Word of God. It matters not whether it be spoken or written. Paul wants to be able to continue to bring the same Truth that he had brought here at Thessalonica to all the places God would send him. His prayer was that the Word of God would be freely given by him everywhere he went, and that the people hearing would accept it. The unselfishness of Paul is seen in that Paul includes them in the success of his mission by asking them to pray for the success of the mission.

II Thessalonians 3:2 "And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all [men] have not faith."

Paul had certainly met with his share of unreasonable men. This is a gross understatement, to say that all men have not the faith. Even today, many men do not have the faith. It was even more so in Paul's day. Christianity was new. Many of the people where Paul had gone worshipped idols. His greatest persecution came from the Jews, however. Paul had been persecuted from every side. He was weary of the persecution, and prayed that he would be delivered from that in the future. This would not be for Paul, however. He had a high calling of God. Look what Jesus said in the next Scripture. Acts 9:16 "For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." Paul was called to a ministry of suffering. These unreasonable and wicked men are men who will not listen to, or accept the Truth. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Those who reject faith in Jesus are doomed. Paul is not afraid for himself, but for the others with him, and for these in Thessalonica.

II Thessalonians 3:3 "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep [you] from evil."

We see a sudden change from his welfare to that of these Thessalonians. He is saying, put your faith in God, and He will protect you. Even in the Lord's prayer, it says deliver us from evil. Temptation comes through the flesh of man. As long as man is in the flesh, there will be temptation to sin. You must allow the spirit within you to overcome your flesh. If we allow the Spirit of Christ within us to be our Lord and guide us in everything, that Spirit will overcome the flesh and keep us from evil.

II Thessalonians 3:4 "And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you."

Paul was confident that they had turned their will over to the will of God. If Jesus Christ is Lord of your life, He makes your decisions, and you will do the will of God instead of your own will. To make Jesus your Lord, means that He is in total control of your life.

II Thessalonians 3:5 "And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."

Let Jesus Christ your Lord fill you so full of His love that you will know you are His. You are what your heart is. If Jesus has completely filled your heart, you are a Christian, Christ-like. It is difficult to wait patiently for the coming of Christ. These Thessalonians, had expected Jesus back immediately. Paul is telling them to not be anxious, but to wait patiently for His return.

II Thessalonians 3:6 "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."

Paul had taught of the second coming of Christ. Their error had come in expecting His return to be immediately. Paul is not asking them, but commanding them to not fall into false doctrine. Brethren indicates that this was for all the believers in the church, not just the officials. The "disorderly" here, would be those who do not follow the teachings Paul established there. Traditional teachings are those that were originally established in the church by Paul. One person walking disorderly can cause a great confusion in the church. It is best to remove yourself from any influence of the disorderly, so that you will not become disorderly yourself.

II Thessalonians 3:7 "For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;"

Paul had lived uprightly before them, and his life had been as much a testimony as his words to them. He had set an example for them to follow. He says, you already know the example we set without us telling you. The "us" here, probably includes Timothy and Silas.

II Thessalonians 3:8 "Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:"

It seems many of these people were expecting the Lord back so quickly, that they had quit their jobs and were just sitting around waiting for the return of the Lord. We are instructed in the Word of God over and over to be doing the work of the Lord even up until the hour that he comes. Paul reminds them that he worked and made his own living while he ministered to them. Paul did not want to be obligated to any of them, so he made a living making tents. Paul did this not so that he could brag about it, but so that he could stay away from the influence of obligation. The job of ministering is a full time job by itself, and is very hard labor. It is a labor of love, but it is still very tiring. Paul went even further for this congregation, in that he required nothing in return for his labor. He wanted to show them the love that he had for them.

II Thessalonians 3:9 "Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us."

Paul is saying here, that it was within his power to expect them to pay him for his work. He did not require it, because he wanted to set a good example for them. He was teaching that we should never be weary in well doing. Paul worked for them to see that it is important to be working for God. He set the example.

2 Thessalonians 4 Questions

1. Why did Paul ask them to pray for them?
2. Paul gave them instruction to be steadfast in the _____ of _____.
3. What could Paul praise them for?
4. What is the power in this world.
5. When Paul includes them by asking them to pray, this shows Paul has great _____ in them.
6. Who did Paul pray to be delivered from?
7. Many of the places that Paul had gone, the people worshipped _____.
8. What was Paul's high calling?
9. Without _____, it is impossible to please God.
10. Who is Paul afraid of?
11. Paul says, put your faith in God and He will _____ you.
12. Temptation comes through the _____ of man.
13. You must allow the _____ within you to overcome the _____.
14. What were these Thessalonians to do?
15. What does it mean to make Jesus Lord of your life?
16. In verse 5, the Lord directs them into _____ waiting for the Lord.
17. Paul commanded them in whose name?
18. Who were they to withdraw themselves from?
19. Who are the "disorderly" in verse 6?
20. Who was this message for?
21. Why must you remove yourself from the disorderly?
22. Why should they pattern their life after Paul's life?
23. Who is the "us" in verse 7?
24. What drastic thing had these people done, because they felt the Lord was coming any minute?
25. How did Paul make a living?
26. Why did he not accept a salary from them?
27. Could Paul have required them to pay him, if he had desired?

We will begin this lesson in II Thessalonians 3:10 "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."

As we said in the last lesson, these Thessalonians were sitting around doing nothing expecting the soon coming of the Lord. From this Scripture above, we can assume that they expected to be fed by the church, while they waited for the return of the Lord. Many times, in our lifetime, people have decided on a date that the Lord was coming back. Many of them had stopped productive lives and just stayed at the church until the day came. Just as it was in the days of these Thessalonians, the day came and went by without the return of the Lord. I am not criticizing these people, because I would have to point to myself first. I believe the coming of the Lord is very near. This, however, does not stop me from writing the Bible studies. I will work until Jesus comes, or until I am physically unable to work. Each person must fulfill the task that God has for him to do. We are all part of a great big puzzle. For the puzzle to be completed, we must take our place in the framework of God's plan. It is not fair to the ones who are working to feed those able bodied who are unwilling to work.

II Thessalonians 3:11 "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies."

God gave work to mankind to help man not to hurt him. Life would not be worth living, if there were not something constructive for us to do with our time. If you stay real busy, there is no time to talk about others, or to create a problem. The following Scripture lets us know what will happen, if we are not busy. I Timothy 5:13 "And withal they learn [to be] idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not." Too much idle time gives a person plenty of time to get into trouble.

II Thessalonians 3:12 "Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread."

God is not pleased with those who sit around and do nothing. It is not fair to expect someone else to work and feed you the bread that they have earned. Even worse than that, is what it does to the idle person. They lose their self-esteem. I have always said, it is better to give someone an opportunity, than it is to give them a hand-out. The person receiving the charity loses his self respect. The following Scripture says it the best. I 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;" There is no sweeter meal than the meal you earned by the sweat of your own brow. I really believe that everyone needs to be needed. We all need to do our share of the work to feel good about ourselves. Paul's word to those who are not working, is to go back to work.

II Thessalonians 3:13 "But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing."

Let us look at some related Scriptures on this. Romans 2:7 "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and

immortality, eternal life:" I Corinthians 15:58 " Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." We know that God set the world up with 6 days of work and one day of rest per week. Work for the night is coming when man's work is done. The parable about the talents is about working for God. God is not pleased when we do not use the talent He has given us for Him. The greatest reward that any of us can have when we get to heaven is to hear the Lord say, well done, thy good and faithful servant.

II Thessalonians 3:14 "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed."

Those who do not follow the teachings that Paul has brought to them are rebellious. They do not accept instruction. These are people who proclaim Christianity, but do not recognize Paul's authority in the church. They are classed as troublemakers and are to be treated as if they are not one of the group, until they change their ways. The other Christians are not to fellowship with him. This seems cruel, but it might bring him to his senses.

II Thessalonians 3:15 "Yet count [him] not as an enemy, but admonish [him] as a brother."

This means that they should tell him of his error and give him a chance to change. It is not that he has turned his back on God, but that he has rebelled against the teaching of Paul.

II Thessalonians 3:16 "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord [be] with you all."

The Lord of Peace and the God of Peace are the same. This is speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ. The only peace that any of us have, is the peace that we have within. This peace is in our life, when the Lord Jesus Christ takes up residence in us and brings the peace that passes understanding. In this world, there is no peace, except the peace that Jesus brings us. He will never leave us or forsake us. He is our Peace. Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Faith and fear are opposites. Peace is like faith. If Jesus is Peace, and if Jesus lives in us, then we have peace in me.

II Thessalonians 3:17 "The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write."

We know by the verse above that Paul, himself, wrote this letter to the Thessalonians. We have spoken before about an epistle being a special letter of instruction that Paul had written. Paul sometimes had someone else to write the letters that he dictated. It seems in this particular letter, that was not the case.

II Thessalonians 3:18 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you all. Amen."

This is a typical closing of Paul's letter. even though he used this very much. It was not just automatic. Paul really did desire that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ would be with them. Notice, that Paul did not exclude those who thought the Lord would be back now. He blessed them all.

2 Thessalonians 5 Questions

1. If any would not _____, neither should he _____.
2. Why is this Scripture so important to these people?
3. Why is it wrong to pick out a day, and sit down and do nothing waiting for that day?
4. We must all _____ the job that God has for us to do.
5. They are not working at all, but are _____.
6. God made us to work while we are on this earth, who does that benefit the most?
7. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 5 verse 13.
8. In verse 12, Paul sends this message with what authority?
9. What did he instruct them to do in verse 12?
10. Who does it hurt the worst when someone is idle?
11. Quote 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verse 11.
12. Be not weary in _____ _____.
13. Quote Romans chapter 2 verse 7.
14. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 58.
15. Which of the parables teach us that God expects us to work?
16. Verse 14 tells us to have _____ _____ with someone who will not work.
17. What could you call this type person?
18. What does "admonish him as a brother" mean?
19. Who is the same as the Lord of Peace?
20. Quote Galatians chapter 2 verse 20.
21. How do we know that Paul, personally wrote this letter?
22. What benediction did Paul write at the end of this letter?

This letter, or epistle, is not addressed to a church, but to Timothy. 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are all known as the Pastoral Epistles. Paul was extremely fond of Timothy. Timothy had trained under Paul. Paul thought of Timothy as his spiritual son. Timothy had worked with many of the churches that Paul had founded. We know that Timothy was present when Paul wrote the Thessalonians.

These two letters to Timothy from Paul were written from Rome about 63 A.D. It is very important that we know a few things about Timothy before we get into this letter. Timothy was born of a Jewish mother and a Greek father. Timothy's ministry would be mostly to those who had been Jews and were now Jewish Christians.

There are a number of things hard to understand about the relationship of Paul and Timothy. Paul had been to Jerusalem and brought back word that the Christians were not to circumcise their men, but he immediately circumcised Timothy. We understand that it was to make Timothy acceptable to the Jews he would minister to. These things are hard to understand, because Jesus was either the perfect sacrifice for all time, or He was not.

Timothy went with Paul quite a bit. He was with him at Corinth, Macedonia, Thessalonica and other places, such as Jerusalem. It seems Paul wanted Timothy to come to him in Rome about the time Paul was tried and convicted. There is an indication in the 13th chapter of Hebrews that Timothy had been in prison himself.

We will find that Timothy was taught the Scriptures by his mother and his grandmother. II Timothy 1:5 "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

We will discuss in detail some of the things mentioned above as we go along.

We will now begin in I Timothy 1:1 "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, [which is] our hope;"

Paul feels it necessary in this letter to Timothy to mention that he was commanded of the Lord Jesus Christ to be an apostle. Apostle is taken from a word which means delegate or ambassador of the gospel. It includes the meaning, with miraculous powers. We are aware that these miraculous powers followed Paul. The Hope is of the resurrection. Because He rose, we will rise. We are not like the world who has no hope. We have hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

I Timothy 1:2 "Unto Timothy, [my] own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, [and] peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord."

Timothy was not the son of Paul in the flesh, but was his spiritual son. Timothy was really an extension of Paul's teaching. Of all the people that worked with Paul, he was his favorite. The grace, mercy and peace, are

blessings Paul spoke on Timothy. The statement of the Father separate from the Lord Jesus Christ shows that all of heaven was included in this.

I Timothy 1:3 "As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,"

It seems from this that Paul was going to minister in Macedonia, and Timothy wanted to go with him. Paul asked Timothy to stay in Ephesus and teach. When Timothy taught, it was as if it were Paul teaching. Paul was having trouble at this time with the churches straying away from the doctrine that he had set down. The word, "charge", shows that Paul was in authority over Timothy. We have said so many times, this was at the very beginning of the founding of the doctrine of the church.

I Timothy 1:4 "Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: [so do]."

The Jews were very aware of genealogies and he could be speaking of this. The fables, spoken of here, came directly from the Talmud. The Talmud was in heavy use at this time and much of it was fables. We discussed in 1 Corinthians how some of the teaching in the Talmud had been quoted by Paul. Paul, as many of the other Jewish converts, had studied the Talmud right along with the Bible, and even though it was not the Bible, they had picked up customs from the Talmud that they were practicing in the church. The "Talmud" was a commentary similar to the book of Josephus in our day. The customs of the Talmud were man-made laws. They were not divine in nature. The Jews were interested in being able to trace their ancestry back to Abraham in the flesh. That is what the genealogy is all about. All of these things cause trouble in the church. The flesh connection to Abraham saved no one. It is the spiritual connection to the faith of Abraham that saves us. Galatians 3:29 "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Edifying means to build up. Jude 1:20 "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,"

I Timothy 1:5 "Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and [of] a good conscience, and [of] faith unfeigned:"

The charity, here, would have been better translated love. Jesus had told the disciples that love of God and love for their neighbor covered all the law. A pure heart is one that is stayed upon the Lord. The pure heart has been washed in the blood of the Lamb {Jesus Christ}. If your heart is stayed upon God, then you will have a clear conscience, because the desire of your heart is to please God. "Unfeigned", in the verse above, means sincere. This is the kind of faith that we read the patriarchs had. This sincere faith is spoken of in Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

I Timothy 1:6 "From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;"

"Jangling" means random talk, or babbling. This is talk, then, that has no connection with reality. This means they are talking about things they know nothing of.

I Timothy 1:7 "Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."

We see that the trouble is coming from the Jews. They may profess Christianity, but they are still hanging on to the law of Moses. Worse than that, they are teaching the Talmud as if it were the Word of God. The Lord Jesus rebuked the people doing this very thing. Matthew 22:29 "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." The word "affirm" means confidently, or strongly. Paul is saying with Jesus, they think they know and do not. They would be teachers of an untruth.

I Timothy 1:8 "But we know that the law [is] good, if a man use it lawfully;"

Jesus came, not to do away with the law, but to fulfill it. Galatians 3:21 "[Is] the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law." The law was not bad, but man's ability to keep the law was lacking. Jesus took care of the obligation of the law for us. Matthew 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." Those who are hid in Jesus have the law already fulfilled for them. They are not under the law, but grace. Romans 6:14 "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

1 Timothy 1 Questions

1. Who is this letter addressed to?
2. What 3 books are known as Pastoral Epistles?
3. Why does Paul speak of Timothy as his son?
4. Where was this letter written from?
5. Approximately when was the letter written?
6. What nationality were Timothy's parents?
7. Who would Timothy minister to primarily?
8. Why did Paul circumcise Timothy?
9. What is difficult to understand about this?
10. Where were some of the places that Timothy went with Paul to minister?
11. Who was Timothy taught in the Scriptures by?
12. What does Paul call himself in verse 1?
13. What does the word that "apostle" was translated from mean?
14. What is the hope?
15. What 3 things did Paul speak as blessings on Timothy?
16. Who was Paul's favorite of all that he had ministered with?
17. While Paul went to Macedonia, what did he want Timothy to do?
18. Why did Paul desire Timothy to do this?
19. What was Timothy's teaching like?
20. What does the word "charge" show in verse 3?
21. What are the fables in verse 4 referring to?
22. What was the "Talmud"?
23. Quote Galatians chapter 3 verse 29.
24. How can you build up your most holy faith?
25. What is the end of the commandment?
26. What makes a pure heart?
27. What does "unfeigned" mean?
28. Quote Hebrews chapter 11 verse 1.
29. What does "jangling" mean?
30. Why should they not be teachers of the law?
31. The law is good, if a man use it _____.
32. Quote Galatians chapter 3 verse 21.
33. If Jesus did not come to destroy the law and the prophets, what did He come to do?
34. Quote Romans chapter 6 verse 14.

We will begin this lesson by repeating I Timothy 1:8 "But we know that the law [is] good, if a man use it lawfully;" I Timothy 1:9 "Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,"

If everyone lived a righteous life, there would be no need for laws. The law is actually given to protect the righteous from the ungodly. The law, known as the law of Moses, is possibly spoken of here. There are over 600 laws and ordinances that were given by God to His people to help them live productive lives while living in a society of varied people. Many of these laws are dietary, judicial, religious, etc. They are all given for the benefit of mankind. I would possibly call them guidelines for living. If all mankind knew God and conformed to His will, there would be no need for laws. Laws are to convict those who have transgressed the will of God. The righteous man lives within the will of God, and there is no law against that. The sad thing is, that while we are in the flesh, we cannot live totally without sin. All mankind has sinned and come short of the glory of God. The penalty for sin is death. The difference is, that the righteous have been made righteous in Jesus, our sin is done away with on the cross of Jesus. All who have not accepted Jesus as their Saviour, are still living in their sin.

I Timothy 1:10 "For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;"

In verse 9 and 10, we see a list of things that are displeasing to God. People who commit these sins are breaking the law. The penalty for this type sin is death. The only way to avoid paying the penalty of death for these sins, is to accept Jesus Christ as your substitute for your sin, and accept His righteousness in exchange. I could go into the meaning of these sins, but really all things displeasing to God are sin. "Sound doctrine" would be doing things the way God intended in the first place. People who remain in the sins listed above are headed for eternal damnation.

I Timothy 1:11 "According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust."

The "glorious gospel" {good news} is that we can obtain forgiveness for one, or all, of these sins, by accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. This message had been intrusted to Paul to give to the Gentile world. Paul is trying to say, that the message he brought was not his message, but the message God had entrusted him with.

I Timothy 1:12 "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;"

Paul feels so greatly privileged, because Jesus sought him out for salvation. I personally believe that Paul really thought himself to be doing the right thing when he was persecuting the Christians. Jesus knew the heart of Paul. He turned Paul around on the road to Damascus and made Paul a

believer in Christ. Paul did not go into the ministry, Jesus put him in the ministry.

I Timothy 1:13 "Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did [it] ignorantly in unbelief."

Paul had not realized he was blaspheming. He felt that he was doing God a favor, when he persecuted the Christians. Paul did not do these things after his eyes were opened to who Jesus was. He did them before he realized who Jesus was. We are all like Paul, before we come to the knowledge of who Jesus is and accept Him as our Saviour. We may not have committed the same sin, but we are guilty of sin. The main thing that Paul is saying here, and that we must do as well, is our life should be transformed when we are saved. We must become a new creature in Christ. Those sins must be part of our past, and not of our future.

I Timothy 1:14 "And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

"Grace", as I have stated before, is unmerited favor. None of us deserve to be saved. The only reason we are saved, is because Jesus loved us enough to die as our substitute for our sins. The only thing we have to do with being saved, and the only thing Paul had to do with being saved, was to believe. Ephesians 2:5 "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)" Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:" All of this faith and loved was wrapped up in Jesus on the cross.

I Timothy 1:15 "This [is] a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

The word, that acceptation was translated from, means acceptance. Then this means, the message is worth us accepting it. We must receive this message. He gives us the gift of salvation, but we must accept it for it to be ours. The purpose of the Word of God taking on the form of flesh and living among us as Christ Jesus, was to save our soul. I Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." The name Jesus means Jehovah Saviour. Jesus did not come for those who were not sinners. He came to save the lost. Paul felt that he was chief among sinners, because he had persecuted the Christians. Jesus forgave him of that, and sent him forth to win the lost.

I Timothy 1:16 "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."

Paul is saying, if Christ can forgive me of that, you know he will forgive you of your sin. Paul thinks that others will be more apt to receive their forgiveness from Jesus, if they realize what Jesus has forgiven Paul. The love of God endures forever. He is not willing that even one would be lost. The only requirement to receive life eternal is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I Timothy 1:17 "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, [be] honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Jesus is King of kings, and Lord of lords. He is the Eternal One. He is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. The true meaning of immortal is undecaying. Immortal is always the same forever. Invisible, here, means something not seen with mortal eyes. He is Wisdom to the utmost. This is praise from Paul to God the Father and Jesus for all that they are, as well as what they have done for him. This glory and honor will never be diminished. Amen, means, so be it.

I Timothy 1:18 "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;"

Paul has told Timothy all of this to encourage him in his ministry. He is giving to Timothy the care of the church at Ephesus. Paul felt that Timothy was called of God for this very purpose. He is actually putting Timothy as an overseer of the church at Ephesus so that they will not stray into false doctrine. Paul had tutored Timothy and he felt sure of his ability to minister. He felt sure that Timothy was a capable soldier for the Lord Jesus Christ. It seems that there had been prophecies in the church about the ministry Timothy has been called to. Paul knows that Timothy will prevail over the false teaching. He will be fully ready for spiritual warfare, because of his training from Paul and by the Holy Spirit.

I Timothy 1:19 "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:"

Paul knew that Timothy had been well trained in the Scriptures, and that he was baptized in the Holy Spirit of God. He believed Timothy would fight the good fight of faith. Faith and a good conscience go hand in hand. Fear does not please God, and does not bring a clear conscience. To doubt brings disaster. Paul knew Timothy would remain faithful. His conscience would be clear knowing that he had done his best.

I Timothy 1:20 "Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme."

Hymenaeus and Alexander were the ones who were shipwrecked. They had doubted and even blasphemed God. They were, possibly, the two who had brought in a false doctrine concerning the resurrection of Jesus. Perhaps, they had set a day, and when it did not occur on that day, they started to doubt and even blasphemed. Paul means by turning them over to Satan, that he could do all sorts of evil things to them short of death. The problems that came to them as a result of that could cause them to repent and save their souls.

1 Timothy 2 Questions

1. The law is good, if a man use it _____.
2. Who is the law made for?
3. The law is given to protect the _____.
4. Why were the over 600 laws and ordinances given by God to man?
5. What kind of laws do these cover?
6. The author would call these the _____ for _____.
7. What law is there against righteous living?
8. What is the penalty for sin?
9. Name some of the sins mentioned specifically.
10. How is the only way to avoid the penalty for our sin?
11. What is meant by "sound doctrine"?
12. What is the "glorious gospel"?
13. Whose message did Paul bring?
14. Who, or what, did Paul credit with his being a minister?
15. Why did Jesus bother with Paul?
16. What description of himself did Paul give about his life before Jesus?
17. Paul obtained _____.
18. How were we like Paul?
19. What must we become, after we are saved?
20. What is "grace"?
21. Quote Ephesians chapter 2 verse 5.
22. What did Paul call himself in verse 15?
23. Jesus is Saviour of _____.
24. What does the name Jesus mean?
25. What caused Paul to think that he was chief among sinners?
26. What did Paul believe would make others believe they could receive salvation?
27. How does Paul describe God in verse 17?
28. Who is King?
29. Who did Paul call Timothy in verse 18?
30. What made Paul believe that Timothy would fight the good fight?
31. What two things, in verse 19, did Paul say Timothy had?
32. Who had Paul delivered to Satan?

We will begin this lesson in I Timothy 2:1 "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and] giving of thanks, be made for all men;"

Paul is now giving some last minute instruction to Timothy. "Supplications" in the verse above, means prayers, or requests. In this particular usage, "intercessions" means prayers. Intercessory prayer is generally when you are praying for someone else, not yourself. This would be the proper usage here, since the prayers were for all men. There are many different types of prayer, and perhaps, that is what is intended here. There is prayer of adoration to God, there is prayer for a specific request, and there is prayer for others. There are many other prayers. I think I love the prayer where I do not want anything from God, but just to visit with Him. These are usually the sweetest times. Paul, possibly, is telling Timothy here, that the church will be just as strong as the prayers that are prayed for it.

I Timothy 2:2 "For kings, and [for] all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

It is especially important to pray for those who rule over us. If the leader of the country is a tyrant, it is not very likely that you would live a peaceable life. Pray for the Lord to lead the king to peace in the country. A godly king makes it pleasant for all of his subjects. At the time this was written there was much persecution of the Christians. Leaders, who were led by every little whim of circumstance, could make it very difficult to be a Christian. It was important to pray for the king to be fair and godly in his dealings with the Christians. Paul would know of the hardships of kings who were influenced by ungodly people. He had been imprisoned several times. Some times he was held for a long time in prison because the ruler would not make a decision to release him, fearing the people or rulers over them. Paul used the fact that he was a Roman to save himself several times.

I Timothy 2:3 "For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;"

We had said in an earlier lesson, that even though we could not respect the man in office, we must respect the office. Really men are in office, because God allowed it for a reason. We should not speak against those God has put in power.

I Timothy 2:4 "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

We will see from the following Scriptures just how important it is to the Lord for all to be saved. John 3:17 "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." II Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." What is the knowledge of the Truth? It is to know Jesus Christ who is the Truth. It is God Himself who wants all men to be saved.

I Timothy 2:5 "For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

Before the cross of Christ, there was no way for man to go directly to the Father God. The temple curtain was closed, and no one could enter in except the high priest. He could enter only when he was accompanied by the blood of the sacrifice. God was away from man, and it seemed impossible to reach God. When Jesus was crucified on the cross, the veil of the temple was torn from the top to the bottom opening the way to the common Christian to God. Jesus is the door. He is the Way. He is the only thing we need to reach the Father. We can pray directly to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ and God will hear our prayer. The man Christ Jesus is mentioned here because the veil of separation in the temple was symbolic of the flesh of Jesus. It is the crucifixion of the flesh of Jesus that opened the way for you and me. Jesus is our Mediator. He is our High Priest, He is our intercessor. Hebrews 7:25 "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Hebrews 8:6 "But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises." It is the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that puts us in right standing with the Father.

I Timothy 2:6 "Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

"Ransom" in the verse above, has to do with Jesus being the substitute for our sin. He purchased our salvation for us with His precious blood. We were captive of sin, until He took our sin upon His body on the cross and sin for us died on the cross. To "testify" means to tell something, because you know it to be a fact. All who have been saved can testify of Jesus. Paul could definitely testify of Jesus. He met Him on the road to Damascus. Paul was to testify to the Gentiles of the fact that Jesus had purchased all who would receive Him with His precious blood.

I Timothy 2:7 "Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, [and] lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity."

Paul was ordained by the Lord Jesus Christ to preach the gospel message to the Gentiles. Acts 9:15 "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:" "Verity" means truth. This then is saying, that Paul brought the Truth to the Gentiles. Paul teaches them that faith alone, and not works, will save a man. Possibly, the reason that Paul is saying this again, is because the Judaizers were not pleased with the message that Paul brought. They wanted the Christians to keep the old Mosaic law, even though they were believers in Christ. Paul was reminding Timothy, the message of salvation through faith was the Truth.

I Timothy 2:8 "I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

To lift the hands up to heaven when you pray, is an humbling experience. It is just recognition of where the answers to prayers come from. We humble ourself to God in this process, and accept the answer He has for us. To receive answers to prayer, we must not have wrath in our life

toward anyone. We must forgive to be forgiven. We must, also, believe that we receive when we pray, and we shall receive. Look, with me, at what Jesus had to say about this. Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive [them], and ye shall have [them]."

I Timothy 2:9 "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;"

Church is a place to go and worship God. It is very important for women to dress in a manner not to draw attention to themselves. A woman's beauty should not be her outward appearance of gold, or pearls, or fancy clothes. Her beauty should be from within. Women, who are modest in apparel and in their behavior, are a blessing in the church.

I Timothy 2:10 "But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

Godly women are a real blessing to the church. They generally are eager to work in the church. In our churches today, we would be in a terrible mess without the women. There are about three women to every man in the church today. Without the work and the financial support of the women in the church, many churches would not be able to operate. It is wonderful to have working men in the church, but if they do not come, the women must keep it going.

I Timothy 2:11 "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection."

The word that silence was translated from means quietness. Subjection has to do with being subordinate to her husband. We must remember in all of this, that this was not what Jesus did. Jesus appeared first to the women at the tomb, and gave them instruction to go, and tell the others. The others included men. Then, why in the world is he making this statement here? We must remember that Timothy and Paul are dealing with people here who are Judaizers. Paul tried very hard to conform to the customs of the people he was ministering to. This has to be what this is, because Paul knew that with God there is no male, or female. Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." We, also, know that Paul ministered with women. Philippians 4:3 "And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and [with] other my fellowlabourers, whose names [are] in the book of life." Different societies have different customs pertaining to their women. We know this to be true with the Moslems today as one example. For any custom to be taken as general doctrine for the church, there has to be two witnesses. Paul is just one witness. Matthew 18:16 "But if he will not hear [thee, then] take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." II Corinthians 13:1 "This [is] the third [time] I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established." The only thing this Scripture is really saying, is for the woman not to try to be the husband in their marriage. Women should never do anything that would embarrass their husbands.

I Timothy 2:12 "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence."

This is not really what Paul believed in the truest sense, because Eunice and Lois taught Timothy. Priscilla and Aquilla {husband and wife} taught together. Paul was very good friends with them. This is really saying, that women should not try to rule over their husbands in the flesh. The word "usurp" means to dominate. As we have said before, Jesus set the woman free, when He set the man free, but this does not eliminate the relationship of husband and wife. In the flesh {not the spirit}, the husband is the head of the woman. In the spirit, Jesus is the head of husband and wife. Married women who preach and teach, should do it with full approval of their husbands, so they will not embarrass the husband. In Christianity, women become free, equal with their husbands. It is so difficult for people to separate the flesh and the spirit. Verse 12 above is to accommodate the custom of these people, not for all churches. One thing that is important in all churches, is that women should not appear to be men, and men should not appear to be women.

I Timothy 2:13 "For Adam was first formed, then Eve."

Here, again, we are looking at the flesh. It is true that Eve was made to be a companion for Adam. When a man and a woman get married, they are one flesh. As Jesus and the Father are one, so are husband and wife. In the husband wife relationship, the husband is the head. We will see throughout the Bible that this is symbolic of Jesus and His church. The wife being the church. This whole thing has to do with women being modest and not wearing clothes that will draw other men's attention to them.

I Timothy 2:14 "And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."

The sad thing is that Adam was not deceived. He sinned in full knowledge. Adam actually symbolizes the law, and Eve symbolizes the church. The church is saved by the grace of God, not by the keeping of the law.

I Timothy 2:15 "Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."

The Saviour of the world is the seed of the woman, Genesis chapter 3 verse 15. Paul has associated the punishment placed on Eve for being beguiled, as the way to salvation. Then the work of the soil by the sweat of the brow would be the salvation of the man. You can see that this Scripture is not to be taken literally, because the toil of the land does not save the man, and the bearing of children does not save the woman. Jesus Christ, who is seed of the woman, is the Saviour of us all, whether male or female. The church and its members must stay in charity and holiness to receive the kingdom of God.

1 Timothy 3 Questions

1. What are several different words that all mean prayer in verse 1?
2. Who did Paul instruct Timothy to pray for?
3. What makes the church strong?
4. What kind of life should we live?
5. What is the difference between serving a godly king, and one who is not godly?
6. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 2 verse 3.
7. Who does God want to be saved?
8. Quote John chapter 3 verse 17.
9. Why is the Lord delaying His coming?
10. What is the knowledge of the Truth?
11. Who is the mediator between God and man?
12. When was the veil of the temple torn from the top to the bottom?
13. Quote Hebrews chapter 7 verse 25.
14. Quote Hebrews chapter 8 verse 6.
15. What is "ransom" in verse 6 speaking of?
16. What does "testify" mean?
17. What 2 things did Paul call himself in verse 7?
18. What does "verity" mean?
19. Which message was Paul telling Timothy was the Truth?
20. In verse 8, Paul said to do what when you pray?
21. Quote Mark chapter 11 verse 24.
22. How are the women to dress?
23. What beauty should the woman have?
24. About what is the ratio of women to men in the churches today?
25. Why does the author believe verse 11 was given to Timothy here?
26. Quote Galatians chapter 3 verse 28.
27. Quote Philippians chapter 4 verse 3.
28. Quote 2 Corinthians chapter 13 verse 1.
29. Why do we know that Paul really did not believe what he said to these people in verse 12?
30. Then why did Paul say this?
31. Adam was first formed , then _____.
32. Adam was not deceived, he _____ in _____.
33. Eve was _____.
34. What does Adam symbolize here?
35. What does Eve symbolize?
36. Who is the Saviour of the world?
37. How do we know that verse 15 is not to be taken literally?

We will begin this lesson in I Timothy 3:1 "This [is] a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work."

"Man" in the verse above, means mankind. It actually means any person, male or female. Almost all of the times the word {man} is used, it means mankind. To desire to work for God all the rest of your life is a sacrificial thing. It is a life of self-sacrifice. Bishop is an office to give relief. The word "bishop" was translated from means inspection {for relief}, or superintendence. It can be stretched to mean office of the bishop {episcopate}.

I Timothy 3:2 "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"

We see that the leader of the church must be someone who has very high moral character. "Vigilant" means sober. The reason sober is mentioned twice is, possibly, because it means to be sober in spirit and in flesh. Given to hospitality is a description of what every Christian should be. You may read of this in Romans chapter 12 beginning with verse 5. To teach the Word of God is a high calling. The great powers in this world are the written and the spoken Word of God.

I Timothy 3:3 "Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;"

These are more things showing that the character of the leader of the church must be an example to the members. Strong drink causes the person drinking to not be able to make sound judgements. Some of the things here mentioned come from losing control of your own will. We should be careful to note {not greedy for filthy lucre}. Greed for money has been the downfall of many. To covet is specifically spoken against in the 10 commandments. When you want anything that belongs to someone else, you are coveting. Fighting should not be part of the minister's vocabulary. These things go against a tender kind, patient spirit that the minister needs.

I Timothy 3:4 "One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;"

The leadership that the minister would need to lead the church members should be evident in the home, as well. Children obey your parents. Parents, make your children obey you.

I Timothy 3:5 "(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)"

This just means that someone who can not take care of his own personal affairs, should not be the leader of the church, because he has proven that he is not leadership material.

I Timothy 3:6 "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil."

A "novice" is a newcomer to the faith. This would be someone who had not been grounded in the Word of God. This would be someone who wanted this job for the power to rule over others. A novice means newly planted. A tree that has been recently planted does not have deep solid roots. The roots that are necessary to lead a church would be grounded solidly in the Word of God. Winds of false doctrine would not be able to uproot him, because he would be solidly planted {over much time} in the teachings of the Word of God. Lucifer fell to the temptation of pride. This is, possibly, what is meant here.

I Timothy 3:7 "Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

The devil goes around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. All eyes will be on the leader of the church. The leader of the church must live without even giving the appearance of evil. Any misconduct upon the part of the leader, opens the gate for the devil to deceive the members. Paul had said before, to follow him as he followed Jesus. This should be the pattern of all who minister. They should live a life free from sin.

I Timothy 3:8 "Likewise [must] the deacons [be] grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;"

When we think of someone who is double tongued, we think of a two-faced person. They are unstable in all of their ways. They can not be trusted, because they say what ever is convenient to say at the time, whether it is true or not. We see from the description above that this person needs to be in full control of his thoughts at all time {not given to much drink}. Greed certainly must not be a character trait of a deacon. One of the jobs of the deacon of the church is to see to the financial needs of the church. The minister should not be involved with raising money for the church to function on. That is the job of the deacon. The minister should be interested in the souls of the people. His time should be spent in prayer and the study of the Word of God. He is like the shepherd who sees to the need of the flock. Sometimes the flock does not have a shepherd and a shepherdess cares for them.

I Timothy 3:9 "Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience."

What is a mystery? Something not understood. We know that Jesus opened our understanding to the mystery of God, when He sent the Holy Spirit to instruct us into all Truth. A Christian with a clear conscience is one who is allowing Christ in them to live through them. A pure conscience is one not worried over whether you are doing right, or wrong. You know you are doing right, because you have turned your will over to the Lord.

I Timothy 3:10 "And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being [found] blameless."

Some ministers will not let anyone serve as a deacon, until they have attended their church for several years. This is so they can get to know them, and find out how they react in time of crisis. The deacon, or deaconess, must be of very high moral character. He or she must be of such a nature that he will be an upright representative of the church. Before he is given this office there must be an examination of his character so there will not be something come up unexpected in the future. When found of high

moral character, then he or she should be awarded the job of deacon, or deaconess.

I Timothy 3:11 "Even so [must their] wives [be] grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."

We see in this, that the entire family must be godly people for the husband to be deacon, or the wife to be deaconess. Many times, husbands and wives serve together in this capacity. It is always important for the husband and wife to be totally agreed, before a married person answers the call to serve God. It would be impossible to serve the way it is necessary to serve, without this agreement. There are requirements pertaining to the entire family, when one serves the Lord. Husbands and wives are one in the flesh, so it is absolutely necessary for them to agree. They must both be of very high character.

I Timothy 3:12 "Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well."

Again, we see the necessity for the home to be on solid ground before one member is called to serve. To be in leadership in the church, it is important to show your leadership in the family first.

I Timothy 3:13 "For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

It is especially important for the deacon to be bold in the Lord, since he is responsible for seeing to the needs of the church. We do know that men who are chosen out for this job have a big task to do. Their faith in Christ Jesus is extremely important. They must believe in the work that is going on, to be able to feel free to work to keep it going.

I Timothy 3:14 "These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:"

Paul loved Timothy, and really wanted to be with him. We think why did Paul not go, if he wanted to? The answer is, that Paul followed the will of God, not what he desired to do in the flesh.

I Timothy 3:15 "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

Paul was aware that he might not be able to go and tell Timothy personally all the things he wanted him to know. The letter would bring instructions to this young minister from his teacher, Paul. We see in this letter, that the meeting place of the believers in Christ was spoken of as the church of the living God. The Word "living" says a lot in itself. It means that Christians believe the Lord Jesus Christ is alive. We believe he rose from the grave. Paul is explaining to Timothy that he must behave in such a way as to be an example for the others on how they should live. The church is to be the pillar and the truth in this world.

I Timothy 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of

angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

The mystery of godliness was revealed by Jesus Christ to His followers. The veil to the Scriptures was removed. The Spirit of God opens the understanding of the believers to the godliness, which is still a mystery to those of the world who do not accept Jesus as Saviour. God the Word took on the form of flesh and dwelt among us. His body was crucified on the cross for our sins. He preached the good news of the gospel 40 days on the earth before He went back to heaven. In the book of Acts we read about his heavenward journey. Acts 1:9 "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight." The great promise, to me, is what the angels told the disciples as they saw Him going up. Acts 1:10 "And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;" Acts 1:11 "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

1 Timothy 4 Questions

1. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 3 verse 1.
2. What is the correct translation of "man" in verse 1?
3. What does "bishop" mean?
4. What are the qualifications of a bishop in verse 2?
5. What does "vigilant" mean?
6. What are the great powers in this world?
7. Some of the things warned against in verse 3 are things causing the person to lose control of his _____.
8. When you want anything that belongs to someone else, you are _____.
9. What type of spirit does the minister need?
10. Children, obey your _____.
11. What is a "novice"?
12. What would cause him to fall into the condemnation of the devil?
13. How can a person not be moved by winds of false doctrine?
14. Lucifer fell to the temptation of _____.
15. The devil goes around like a _____, seeking whom he may devour.
16. Describe the deacon from verse 8.
17. A doubletongued person is _____ in all their ways.
18. What is the job of the deacon?
19. What should the minister spend his time doing?
20. When was the Christians understanding opened to the mystery of God?
21. What should you do, before you appoint someone to be a deacon?
22. What characteristics should their wives have?
23. Why must a deacon be bold in the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?
24. Why had Paul sent this letter to Timothy?
25. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 3 verse 16.

I Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

"Expressly" speaks of something that is beyond question, or definite. "Spirit", of course, is the Holy Spirit of God. There has been so much discussion about when the latter times come into reality. Actually, the beginning of the latter times was at the resurrection of Jesus. When we look at "giving heed to seducing spirits" we see that the people are willingly listening to these spirits that draw people away from God's teachings. We read in a previous lesson, that before the coming of the Lord, there will be a great falling away from the church. We are, also, told that in the latter days, it will be like it was in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. This means that the homosexual life style will be practiced. That is the reason Sodom was destroyed. The word sodomy comes from that name. In the instance of the verse above, there is a specific false doctrine that is being widely accepted. Notice, with me, before we get into the details, it is a doctrine of devils. This doctrine goes directly in opposition to God's teaching.

I Timothy 4:2 "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

These people must have been at some time believers and have turned away from that teaching, because they are hypocrites. They are actually lying about God's teachings. The worst thing of all, they feel no guilt for what they are teaching. Since their conscience is not working properly, it appears they got into this false doctrine gradually. Each falsehood made them a little less conscience of their sin.

I Timothy 4:3 "Forbidding to marry, [and commanding] to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

Now we get into the specifics of the doctrine of devils. God made male and female to marry, and with Him, create Him a family. You can see why it would be wrong to teach people not to marry. They would not fulfill their reason for being males and females in the flesh. There are many people in our society today who have elevated animals up to a position where they do not belong. It is almost animal worship. God created animals for man. He intended men to eat the flesh of animals. That was their purpose for being. We will see, as we go along, that meats here is referring to the flesh of an animal. The only restriction for eating even the animals that were classified as unclean in the Old Testament, is that you pray over the food before you eat it. When Jesus raised the 12 year old girl to life, He said, feed her some meat. This was the flesh of an animal. There is a movement going through our land not to use the hide of an animal for coats. The first thing God did for Adam and Eve, after their fall, was to kill an animal and make clothing for them of the hide of the animal. We should not get away from using the animal for the purpose God made him for. He has a purpose that fits in with the plans of God. God does not need our help to decide what the animal is used for. Animals are not people. People are made in the image of God.

I Timothy 4:4 "For every creature of God [is] good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:"

The word "creature", in the verse above, lets you know that this is animal flesh they are speaking of. Everything God created, was followed by saying, and it is good. Remember, though, whatever you eat, must be prayed over, thanking God before you eat it.

I Timothy 4:5 "For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."

"Sanctified", in this particular sense, means made holy. It is very important for us to remember that God made the earth, and everything on it, and all the animals, fishes, and fowl, before He made man. He made all of this for the use of man. He made it not to use as we see fit, but as He planned for us to use it. It was the Word of God that made all of it. It was made good from the beginning.

I Timothy 4:6 "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."

Timothy needs to remind these people of the falsehood of teaching doctrines of devils. Any use of anything on this earth for other purposes than what God made them for in the beginning, would be as if we were saying God made a mistake. You can see the error in this. The "brethren" speaks of all believers in Christ. Notice, he is a minister of Jesus Christ. He is under direct orders of Jesus. Paul just reminds Timothy that he had been taught correctly from the beginning, now stay with that teaching.

I Timothy 4:7 "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself [rather] unto godliness."

Some of the writers spoke of the Talmud as fables. I do not think that to be what Paul is saying here, however. He is saying, don't listen to people, learn from the Word of God. The best exercise a person can get is in the Word of God. Perhaps, there was a great deal of small talk in the church. It is best to stick to the study of God's Word in the church, and not have profane parties there.

I Timothy 4:8 "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

The most a person can do with bodily exercise is to improve the flesh of man a little. The study of God's Word builds up the spirit of man. The flesh will pass away, but the spirit is eternal. The best preparation that we can make, is for the everlasting life.

I Timothy 4:9 "This [is] a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance."

This is just saying to Timothy, I am saying this in all good faith. It will be beneficial to you.

I Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

This Scripture is the one many use to say that all mankind will be saved. That is really not what it is saying. Jesus is the Saviour of all mankind, if they accept the salvation He provided for them. Jesus suffered for every individual who ever lived. In that sense, He is the Saviour of us all. How can we receive something we do not believe in? The key that turns the lock to save each of us, is our acceptance of that free gift of salvation. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Paul believed so strongly, he would spend the rest of his life labouring for the gospel. Paul was so thoroughly convinced when he saw the Light of Jesus, that no scorn of man could turn him away. He was willing to suffer anything to be able to bring the gospel message to the lost. Paul admits that he believes Jesus rose from the grave, when he calls Him "Living God".

I Timothy 4:11 "These things command and teach."

Command is a strong word that shows it is absolutely necessary to believe, to be saved. You could say, require this of all who accept Jesus as Saviour. Timothy will be acting as the pastor of the church here. One of the duties of the pastor of the church is to teach the people how to apply the Word of God to their daily lives. Christianity is a walk, not a one-time experience.

I Timothy 4:12 "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

Paul is saying to Timothy, do not wander from the teachings, because of your youth and give the Christians any reason to question your teachings. He is saying to Timothy, live above reproach. Do everything as a seasoned man of God. The pastor of any church must live an example before his people. Sin should not be even in his thoughts whether he is young or old. Notice, that Paul cautions him first about the Word of God. The Word must not be compromised. He is, also, telling Timothy to be a doer of the Word of God, not just a speaker of the Word. Let Christ in you be so great that they will not be able to find any flaw in your way of life. Be strong in the faith and in the power of the Spirit.

I Timothy 4:13 "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."

Notice, that even Timothy needs to study the Word of God. Paul is saying, spend much time in reading your Bible. Preach {exhort} every time you have the opportunity, and stay with the doctrine we have established.

I Timothy 4:14 "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery."

This is speaking of the special gift of the Holy Spirit that was given Timothy, when he was baptized in the Spirit of God. Paul is reminding

Timothy that this gift was given him to use in the ministry. I Corinthians 12:28 "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues." This does not specifically say which Timothy received, but we know the purpose of these gifts of the Spirit are to help in the church. The laying on of the hands of the presbytery was to anoint Timothy for the ministry. We do not all have the same gift, but we must use the gift that God has given us to minister with. The main reason Timothy is not to neglect the gift the Lord gave him, is because that is his individual power to minister. Each ministry is different. He is to minister in the area where the Lord called him.

I Timothy 4:15 "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."

Paul is expressing to Timothy the necessity to give all of his attention to the ministry. Timothy will be a blessing to the people he ministers to, if he ministers in the area the Lord has anointed him to minister in. Those called of God are called to serve others, not themselves. Paul wants all to realize that Timothy is called of God, and will do a good job in spite of his youth.

I Timothy 4:16 "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

Timothy, or for that fact, any minister, must know the Truth himself, before he can lead others to the Truth. If the blind lead the blind, they both fall into the ditch. Timothy, must not only teach the correct doctrine, but live it, as well. The shepherd, who leads the flock, must teach Truth. If he, or she, does not, the entire flock will be lost. The salvation of his own soul has to do with what he believes as an individual, but the salvation of the congregation depends upon what each individual has been taught and accepted as Truth. Romans 10:14 "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

1 Timothy 5 Questions

1. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 4 verse 1.
2. What does the word "expressly" mean?
3. The Spirit is what?
4. When did the latter times begin?
5. What is meant by "giving heed to seducing spirits"?
6. When will the great falling away of the church occur?
7. What will it be like in the latter days?
8. The doctrine Paul was warning of, was a doctrine of _____.
9. What makes the author believe they were Christians?
10. What are they lying about?
11. How had they gotten into this false doctrine?
12. In verse 3, what specific false things were they teaching?
13. Why did God make males and females in the flesh?
14. What has our society done regarding animals, that God would not approve of?
15. What is the only restriction for eating meat?
16. What did Jesus say to do for the 12 year old girl he raised?
17. Why do we know it is alright to wear coats made from the skin or hide of an animal?
18. Every creature of God is _____.
19. What word leaves no doubt that this is speaking of the flesh of an animal?
20. The meat is sanctified by what?
21. What does "sanctified", in verse 5, mean?
22. If Timothy does what, he will be a good minister of Jesus Christ.
23. Who are the "brethren" spoken of here?
24. Refuse profane and old wives' _____.
25. What is the best exercise we can get?
26. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 4 verse 8.
27. What is the most a person can do with bodily exercise?
28. Who is the Living God?
29. Quote John chapter 3 verse 16.
30. Quote Mark chapter 16 verse 16.
31. Christianity is a _____, not a _____ time experience.
32. What did Paul caution Timothy against in verse 12?
33. What 3 things did Paul tell Timothy to give attendance to?
34. What was Timothy cautioned not to neglect?
35. What is the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit?
36. Timothy must give all of his attention to the _____.
37. Quote Romans chapter 10 verse 14.

We will begin this lesson in I Timothy 5:1 "Rebuke not an elder, but intreat [him] as a father; [and] the younger men as brethren;"

Paul spoke of Timothy's youth in the last chapter. This is saying since Timothy is young, he must have respect for those older than himself. It is saying, also, not to come against this older person in a sharp manner. We are taught throughout the Bible, to honor our father and mother. In saying to treat him like a father, he is saying, honor his old age. Timothy is to look on others as his equal and not look down on them. All believers are brothers in Christ.

I Timothy 5:2 "The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity."

This is just explaining the role Timothy is to take with all of the congregation. He should not be looking on the young women to lust after them, but should think of them as his sisters. The older women are to be held in respect, as if they were his mother.

I Timothy 5:3 "Honour widows that are widows indeed."

God has always provided for the widows and orphans. If we are to be like Christ, then we must help them, too. Paul is saying, not all women who have lost their husbands are truly widows. Honor those who are really widows.

I Timothy 5:4 "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God."

This is far from what is going on in our society today. Children are neglecting their parents. We see so many young people who do not want the bother, or the expense, of caring for their elderly parents. Children should honor their parents and show love and charity toward them. Parents should not be the responsibility of the outside world or the church, to care for. This should be thought of as an honor to do for your parent. The church should help, when they are without children to help.

I Timothy 5:5 "Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day."

This is speaking of a widow, such as Anna, who was in the temple in Jerusalem when Jesus was carried there for dedication. True widows are not interested in dating or getting married again. They will probably remain single. In this case they are a great help to the church, because they pray for the church. I have said before, the church is just as strong as the prayers that go up for it. These widows are ministers in the church and the church should support them.

I Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth."

This is speaking of a widow who is a widow in name only. She would be sleeping with some man who is not her husband.

I Timothy 5:7 "And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless."

As we have said so many times before, this was the beginning of the church, and they had to deal with each problem that arose without too much guideline. This is something Paul wants Timothy to teach in the church as a doctrine.

I Timothy 5:8 "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

By not caring for your mother or father who was elderly and could not help himself, you would actually be going against the teachings of the Bible. This is a strong statement about denying the faith, but we can not take part of God's teachings and leave the others behind. God teaches to honor our parents. This would include caring for their needs that they could not provide for themselves. An infidel is someone who does not believe. If we do not heed God's Word, we really do not believe.

I Timothy 5:9 "Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man,"

It appears that Paul is saying, the widow must be 60 years old, before she would classify as a widow. I believe he is saying, they would probably still be interested in marrying again before that age. It does not mean that a woman has to be over 60 years old before she can join the church. It means for the church to take over her support as a widow, she must be over 60. The wife of one man, means that she has not been jumping from one marriage to the other. She has been a faithful wife.

I Timothy 5:10 "Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work."

Let your light so shine before men that they can see your good works and glorify the Father. We see in all of Paul's teachings, and in fact, throughout the Bible, that if a person is a Christian, it will be obvious to the world by the good works they do. All of these restrictions, again, are for being taken care of as a widow by the church. All of the things mentioned above make up the personality of an humble servant of God. You may tell me that you are a Christian, but if I do not see some of these things in your life, I would doubt that you are truly a Christian.

I Timothy 5:11 "But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;"

This is speaking of the younger woman desiring to be married again. There is nothing wrong in wanting to be married again. There is something wrong with putting your hand to the plough and turning back. This is speaking of someone, who in their grief, had dedicated themselves to the work of God in the church. When their grief for their loved one is over,

they start yearning to be married again. It is not wrong to want to be married. It is wrong to proclaim yourself as a widow who will never marry, and then want to turn back into a worldly life.

I Timothy 5:12 "Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith."

This is speaking of someone who has vowed to live single and work for God, and have gone back on that promise. They have turned away from their faith in God to go back into a world of sin and lust.

I Timothy 5:13 "And withal they learn [to be] idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not."

Anyone who does not stay busy doing constructive things has too much time to get into trouble. Those who gossip, whether married or unmarried, need to get busy doing something constructive, and they will not have time to gossip. If you are idle, you are wasting your time. You can never get those moments back. Be sure to use every moment of your time constructively. Tattlers and busybodies are not busy at doing anything, but wagging their tongue.

I Timothy 5:14 "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

This is speaking of young widows, not women in general. These young women have experienced family life, and will probably not be happy single. The devil is the adversary spoken of here. He goes about seeking every Christian he can to accuse of anything. He accuses us before the Father, but we have a High Priest {Jesus Christ} who represents us before the Father. It is best to stay as far away from sin as possible. Paul says then, it would be better to marry again than to burn with desire for a man.

I Timothy 5:15 "For some are already turned aside after Satan."

The battle has always been between the desires of the flesh, and the spirit. Those who do not get their flesh under obedience to the spirit, will finally listen to the flesh and sin. When you obey the flesh and not the spirit, you have turned aside after Satan. The very best thing to do is to make Jesus not only your Saviour, but your Lord. Then the spirit will rule over the flesh. Let Christ live in you.

I Timothy 5:16 "If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed."

This is just saying, if you can help your relative who is a widow, do not put this burden off on the church. There will be enough widows who have no one to help them for the church to take care of.

I Timothy 5:17 "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine."

This is speaking of the respect that should be shown to those who have spent their time serving others in the church. It seems Paul is saying, that teachers of the Word of God and the doctrine of the church should be held in very high esteem. We have mentioned before the self sacrifice that is necessary to do these things. That should not go unnoticed by the members. Elders in a church watch over the spiritual health of the church. They must be very familiar with the Word of God to do this.

I Timothy 5:18 "For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer [is] worthy of his reward."

Those that serve of the temple should of the temple receive their living. This past statement was true in the Old Testament. It should be the rule for the church, as well. A minister of the Word of God needs to spend his time in prayer and study of the Word of God. He would have to take time away from the things of God to make a living if he did not live of the church. The minister, laboring for the church should be paid by the church. It is not a sin to take a salary from the church. It would be a sin to take an extravagant amount that the church could not afford. We should be good stewards of God's money. Pay your preacher well, but not so much as to cause him or her to sin.

I Timothy 5:19 "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."

First of all, an elder is someone who is very familiar with the Word of God and would know the consequences of sin. It would be highly unlikely this person would be involved in sin. Secondly, someone might have a personality conflict with someone and use accusations against that person to get back at them. Thirdly, what someone sees or thinks he sees or hears, may not be what it appears. This, then, is saying, to be sure of the error, before you accept the accusation. Two or three different people are more apt to be accurate in their accusations.

I Timothy 5:20 "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

Public reprimand would be the thing to do, because it would keep someone else from doing the same thing. It is worse for an officer of the church to be caught up in sin. The elders should know better. One important reason for the public rebuke is that others would not think the elder was getting away with the sin. It would show that they are subject to God, as well as the member of the church. To be chosen out for special greatness brings great obligation with it.

I Timothy 5:21 "I charge [thee] before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality."

Just because someone is a good friend, or because they are in high position in the church, does not excuse sin. The punishment must be totally impartial for it to be just. We must remember the fact that Timothy is very young. He would probably hesitate to reprove someone who was his elder in the service of the church. Paul makes it very clear that this can not be the reason for not reprovng them. Paul mentions God, The Lord Jesus, and the

elect angels to show the seriousness of not letting someone off because of position of importance. They must be judged fairly, but justly.

I Timothy 5:22 "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure."

"Laying on of hands" has to do with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the ordaining of someone to an office in the church. Quick decisions are sometimes repented in leisure. You must know a person for a good while, before you can understand what type of a person they really are. Sometimes a person's true character takes a little time to surface. Another way to look at this would be, if this person were giving Timothy trouble over the reprimand and wanted to fight. Paul could be saying, Timothy, don't let your temper get out of control and hit someone, you would be guilty of sin along with them in that case. Perhaps, his advice is for Timothy to stay above sin of this nature. Timothy would, also, have to try to stay neutral so he could give an unbiased judgement.

I Timothy 5:23 "Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities."

This is like many of the things Paul said in his writings. This drinking of wine was not for all ministers of the Word of God to do, but was for Timothy. Timothy was to stay away from the foul water that was in the area. Bad water brings stomach problems. Paul is advising Timothy not to drink the water to keep from getting the virus. In an area where the water was good, this would certainly not be good advice. It appears that Timothy had been sick quite a bit. This stops all this present day talk of those who are right with God never being sick. The sickness was not because of sin Timothy had committed, but because the water was bad. Notice, also, the word "little".

I Timothy 5:24 "Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some [men] they follow after."

We see that some people who sin do a pretty good job of covering up their sin for awhile. Their sin will be found out, but it may be found out long after the sin was committed. On the other hand, some sins are obvious to everyone even as they are being committed. It is best not to make quick judgements. Wait until all the facts are in, then judge. All sins will be revealed when we stand before the Lord in judgement.

I Timothy 5:25 "Likewise also the good works [of some] are manifest beforehand; and they that are otherwise cannot be hid."

This is just saying that some deeds are obviously good as they are being done, and they are no secret. Other good deeds may never be recognized until we stand before the Lord Jesus and hear Him say, well done, thy good and faithful servant. This type of good deeds, are laying up treasures in heaven where they will be waiting for us.

1 Timothy 6 Questions

1. Rebuke not an _____, but entreat him as a _____.
2. What was he honoring when he honored him as a father?
3. The elder women as _____.
4. Why did he use the term "widows indeed"?
5. Who should take care of the elderly?
6. Why do people today not care for their parents generally?
7. Those who are widows indeed, trusts in _____.
8. Who was a widow like the one in verse 5?
9. The church is as strong as what?
10. What kind of woman is verse 6 describing?
11. Why was Paul sending all of these details of controlling a church to Timothy?
12. Those who will not provide for their own, are worse than an _____.
13. How old must a widow be for the church to take over her support?
14. Describe the character of the woman that the church would provide for?
15. Why did they not take in younger women who had lost their husbands?
16. What do the idle do in verse 13?
17. Paul suggested that the younger women _____.
18. Who is the adversary spoken of in verse 14?
19. Who accuses us before the Father?
20. Who is our High Priest?
21. What has the battle been between?
22. Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of _____ honor.
23. Who were those who were especially mentioned in verse 17?
24. Thou shalt not _____ the ox that treadeth out the corn.
25. Where should the minister earn his living?
26. How many witnesses must you have against an elder?
27. What should be done to elders who sin?
28. Why should it be public?
29. Do nothing by _____.
30. Why is partiality wrong?
31. What two things could "lay hands suddenly on no man" mean?
32. What did Paul tell Timothy to do for his infirmities?
33. Is this Scripture instruction for all ministers?
34. Why did Paul tell Timothy to do this?
35. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 5 verse 24.

We will begin this lesson in I Timothy 6:1 "Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and [his] doctrine be not blasphemed."

"Servants", in the verse above, could have been translated slaves, as well as servants. It is the same suggestions either way. Many persons who had been slaves came to the knowledge of Christ in the early days of Christianity. Christianity has always been evident among working people and slaves. I believe this Scripture is expressing the fact that just because a person comes to Christ, it does not free them from their other obligations. In fact, a person who has received Christ as his Saviour should do an even better job at the things he is obligated to do, because they are doing it as unto Christ. True Christianity teaches loyalty, and honor. Paul is saying, that they might even win their master to Christ, if they show him it makes a difference for the better being saved. Christianity is not a crutch to be used to get a person relieved from their duties. It should make a person more productive, because of the peace and happiness it brings to the individual.

I Timothy 6:2 "And they that have believing masters, let them not despise [them], because they are brethren; but rather do [them] service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort."

Paul is explaining that even though you are a brother in Christ with your believing master, you should still give him the respect he is due because of his position. We said before, Christianity should not be used to get you special rights and privileges. God is the one who put us in the position we are in on the earth. Whatever place we find ourselves in, we must do the best job we can. Paul is explaining little problems that might occur. Since these things had not been mentioned earlier, he was covering as many as he could. You are not to change your station in life, because you are saved. You are to serve God where He called you.

I Timothy 6:3 "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, [even] the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;"

This is not a complete sentence above, but we know what it is saying, do we not? Just proclaiming yourself a Christian does not make you a Christian. A Christian is Christ-like. Jesus said, serving others should not be thought of as an obligation, but a privilege. He spoke of how the servant would be the greatest. Matthew 23:11 "But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant." We must remember that the Jews who had converted to Christianity were extremely class conscious. Jesus served mankind. If we are to be like Him, we will do likewise. Paul is warning Timothy, that the Judaizers will teach a false doctrine which is caught up in class.

I Timothy 6:4 "He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,"

The humble servant accepted Christianity willingly with the doctrine of serving. The converted Jews were constantly questioning the doctrine of the Christians. The law, with its class separations, had caused many to reject Jesus and His teachings, because they did not conform to what they had been taught. This Jewish element in the Christian movement, questioning at every turn, were causing strife among the brethren. They were arguing to keep all the customs of the law. This caused problems with the new Christian converts.

I Timothy 6:5 "Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

The word translated "perverse", here, means misemployment, or meddling. My own personal belief about the Scripture above, is that Paul is warning Timothy to tell the people not to use God for personal gain. The fact that they have corrupt minds, means that they had the truth and wandered away from it, teaching that if you were where you should be with God, you would, also, be financially better off. They were connecting their position with God with having earthly wealth. Notice, the stern warning, from such withdraw thyself. Sometimes people who are godly have money. It does not mean if you have money, it is a sin. It is saying, to use God to get great wealth is sin.

I Timothy 6:6 "But godliness with contentment is great gain."

I love what Paul said in another Scripture about this. Philippians 4:11 "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, [therewith] to be content." Philippians 4:12 "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need." We will find that it is not how much we have, or how well thought of we are, that makes us happy. It is our attitude toward life. If I put my faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, I should be content knowing whatever is happening to me, is for my good. In Proverbs, we read a lot about what makes a man happy. It is not wealth or fame, it is attitude. When we have food and a place to lay our head at night, it is enough, if we have Jesus. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

I Timothy 6:7 "For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out."

The only true riches are the ones we lay up in heaven. This world, and the people on it, are temporary tenants. It all belongs to God. We are travelling through this land on the way to our promised land. The world is like Egypt was for the Israelites. It is a place of dwelling that we do not own. We come into the world naked. It is for sure we cannot take our big cars and fine homes with us to heaven. They would pale by comparison to what God has in store for us, even if you could carry them. Jesus has gone ahead and prepared a place for us. We will not need anything from this earth. He has made provision for us.

I Timothy 6:8 "And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

These are basic things to live on. In the 6th chapter of Matthew beginning with the 25th verse, you will find the teachings of Jesus on this very thing. I will quote just one verse here that says what we must keep our mind on. Matthew 6:33 " But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Our heart and mind should not be stayed on material things of this world. God will take care of that, if we will just worship and serve Him.

I Timothy 6:9 "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."

Notice the key words in this: will be. In other words, he is not already rich, he wants to be rich. This means that the person has his mind stayed upon being rich. Sometimes it is a temptation to take short-cuts to get to where you want to be financially. It is not riches that send a person to hell, but the lust of riches. This type of lust causes a person to totally disregard others to acquire their own selfish desires. It is very important to know how to deal with riches, if you find yourself in that position in life. I Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" I Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;" It is not a sin to be rich. It is a sin to lust to be rich.

I Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

When you covet, you want something that does not belong to you. Notice again, the money is not the root of all evil. It is the love of money. It is our attitude toward the riches that either condemns us, or saves us. One of the best examples of this in all the Bible, is the rich young ruler that comes to Jesus and asks what he must do to be saved. Throughout the Bible we are told that we must believe in Jesus to be saved. In this particular instance Jesus told him to go and sell what he had and give it to the poor if he wanted to be perfect. Why was Jesus' answer different to this young man? It is simple. The man's money was his god. He went away sorrowful. He chose to keep his money over turning to God. Anything, whether money or something else, that comes ahead of God with us, is our god. Money should not become before God. God said: Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Those who do this, are lost.

1 Timothy 7 Questions

1. How is a servant to treat his master?
2. Why is he to do this?
3. What is another word that "servants" could have been translated in verse 1?
4. Because a person comes to Christ, does not free them from their _____.
5. Why should the servant do a better job after he, or she, comes to Christ?
6. When the master and the servant both are Christians, what effect should that have on their positions?
7. Why is Paul getting into all these details?
8. Proclaiming yourself a Christian does not mean you are a _____.
9. Quote Matthew chapter 23 verse 11.
10. The Jews that had come to Christ were extremely _____ conscious.
11. What were the converted Jews constantly questioning?
12. What caused much of the strife in the early church?
13. Those with corrupt minds supposed what was godliness.
14. We must not use God for _____.
15. Quote Philippians chapter 4 verses 11 and 12.
16. Quote Philippians chapter 4 verse 13.
17. What are the only true riches?
18. The people in this world are temporary _____.
19. If we could take our big cars and our fine homes to heaven with us, what would we discover?
20. Having _____ and _____ let us be therewith content.
21. Quote Matthew chapter 6 verse 33.
22. What are the key words in verse 9?
23. What is his mind stayed upon?
24. It is not riches that send a person to hell, but what?
25. What does this type of lust cause a person to do?
26. How must we deal with riches, if we find ourself in that position?
27. For the _____ of money is the root of all evil.
28. What are you doing, when you covet?
29. What really condemns us or saves us regarding money?
30. Why did Jesus require more of the rich young ruler?
31. Did he fulfill the requirements?
32. Anything that we put ahead of God, is our _____.

In the last lesson, we had begun the discussion of the deception of riches. It is so important to understand that, we will begin this lesson with a repeat of the verse 10 in the last lesson.

I Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

We discussed that, it is not the fact that you have money that is evil. It is your attitude toward the money that is bad. Love of money causes us to covet something that does not belong to us. Christians, who are constantly thinking of their earthly possessions, have wandered from the faith. We should keep our mind and our heart on God. Possibly, if we can handle some money without it ruining our relationship with God, He might allow you to manage some of it for Him. There is not enough money in the entire world that is worth trading your place in heaven for. Be careful when it comes to money matters. Great riches are many times the trap that Satan can catch you in.

I Timothy 6:11 "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."

Paul is stressing to Timothy here, the importance of teaching the people to seek godly things, and not things pleasing unto the flesh. We must remember along with this, that all of these people professed Christianity. "O man of God" lets us know that those who are God's live a different life, with different goals than that of the men of the world. The godly do not follow after riches, they follow after righteousness. Those, who are seeking wealth, have no time for other things. Not only are we not to seek riches, but we are to flee from the lust of riches. These things, in verse 11 above that are mentioned, are opposite of lust for riches. These are things that come from an humble heart stayed upon God. To be "righteous" means we are in right standing with God. "Godliness" means that we have patterned our life after His life. Faith is the ingredient that pleases God. To have faith and trust in God means that we are satisfied with the position He has placed us in. Love causes us to give, not to take from our fellowman. Patience comes as a gift from God. Most men in a hurry to get rich have no patience. You can easily see why this would be important to mention of the godly. Meekness and the personality of the proud are the opposites, as well.

I Timothy 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

Every minister I have ever known, has to go back and look at this statement that Paul made to Timothy. Sometimes, the fight becomes so difficult, that in the natural we want to stop. The advice was good for Timothy, and it is good for us, as well. My husband has a slang statement that fits perfectly here. He says, When the going gets tough, the tough get going. We cannot give up the fight, because the way is hard. When you receive your salvation, hang on to it, do not let it slip away. Romans 8:35 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"

Romans 8:36 "As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Romans 8:37 "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Romans 8:38 "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come," Romans 8:39 "Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Paul reminds Timothy that it is for his own benefit to hang on to eternal life, and it is also to the benefit of those who knew of Timothy's love of God, as well.

I Timothy 6:13 "I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and [before] Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;"

If our leader {Jesus Christ} witnessed a good confession before the world, we can do no less. Christians must be Christ-like. Paul encourages Timothy to not be overcome by the opposition. He reminds him that the world was opposed to Christ Jesus. Timothy is young and needs this word of encouragement. Paul is explaining how truthful this statement is when he says, in the sight of God, and before Jesus Christ.

I Timothy 6:14 "That thou keep [this] commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:"

Christianity is not something we put on and take off at our convenience. It is a daily walk. Paul is saying, stay in that narrow path of righteousness that leads to eternal life. This just means that he must never turn back into the world. Jesus will appear unto those who are looking for Him. We must live everyday as if today was the day of His coming. Stay faithful until Jesus takes us home.

I Timothy 6:15 "Which in his times he shall shew, [who is] the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;"

When Jesus returns to this earth, it will not be as Saviour. His name will be King of kings, and Lord of lords. The lords and kings of this earth will have to step aside, because The true King will be here. At the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue confess. Philippians 2:10 "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;" Philippians 2:11 "And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father." He is not King of the few, but King of all.

I Timothy 6:16 "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom [be] honour and power everlasting. Amen."

Jesus is not a light, He is the Light. He is the source of all Light. It is His Light that gives all things the power to be. The things we call light here upon the earth, such as the sun and the moon, are not creative Light. They are only fixtures that we see Light in. He is the everlasting One. He is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. Immortality means unending existence. He Is the great I AM. No man can see this with his natural body, or he would be totally consumed. Hebrews 12:29 "For our God [is] a consuming fire." Jesus, and the Father, and the Spirit are all

somehow all of this. If we could ever get to the point that we understand all there is to know about God, then He would no longer be God. We cannot fully understand. We can just know some things, and that is enough. He is Power. He is Everlasting God. Amen - so be it.

I Timothy 6:17 'Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;"

Considering verse 16, how could they be highminded? This world and all of its riches shall pass away. Riches, life, and many other things in this life are uncertain. They are here today and gone tomorrow. II Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." II Peter 3:11 "[Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness," We see from all of this, how silly it would be to place your faith in something so temporary. The only truly lasting thing, that we can put our trust in, is God. God allows some of us to use a great deal of material things in this earth. They are not ours, they are His. We should act accordingly.

I Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;"

Seeing that these things are just here for us to manage for the Lord, they should be used for good. Possibly, Paul placed this in this letter to Timothy, because the Jews really thought themselves to be better than other people. He is telling Timothy, teach them that these earthly treasures really belong to God. Teach them to use the treasures the way Jesus would use them, if He were here. Willing to communicate means not thinking themselves too good to talk to someone they think to be their underling. They must use what God has entrusted to them in a manner pleasing unto God.

I Timothy 6:19 "Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

This laying up in store for themselves, has to do with storing our treasures in heaven. Matthew 6:19 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:" Matthew 6:20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:" We remember back to the last lesson, we discovered that God and money could not both be our God. If money is our god, we will wind up in hell. If God is our God, we are not in love with the money, and we will go to heaven.

I Timothy 6:20 "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane [and] vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:"

So many people try to prove the Bible technically with scientific books. The Bible is the Word of God. It does not have to be proved. It is the standard that we should judge all else by. Faith is not fact. If you could prove something, it would take no faith to believe it. Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Vain babblings are false doctrines that are brought for consideration. Paul tells Timothy, keep the Truth that you already have. You cannot improve the Truth.

I Timothy 6:21 "Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace [be] with thee. Amen."

It appears that some had listened to the vain babblings, and believed them. This would be a terrible error on anyone's part. Paul prays that the unmerited favour of God {grace} will be Timothy's.

1 Timothy 8 Questions

1. Why did the author feel it important to repeat verse 10 from the last lesson?
2. The _____ of _____ is the root of all evil.
3. It is not the fact that you have money that is evil, it is your _____ toward the money,
4. How much money would you sell your soul for?
5. What did Paul say, in verse 11, to follow when you fled the temptation of riches?
6. What separates someone as a man of God?
7. To be a "righteous" man means what?
8. What does "godliness" mean?
9. Fight the good fight of _____.
10. Lay hold on _____.
11. In Romans chapter 8 verses 35 through 39, what can separate a true Christian from God?
12. Who quickeneth all things?
13. How does Paul express how truthful his statement is in verse 13?
14. How long is he to keep this commandment?
15. Who will Jesus appear to at the end?
16. Who is the blessed and only Potentate?
17. What will Jesus be, when He returns to the earth?
18. Quote Philipians chapter 2 verses 10 and 11.
19. Jesus is the _____.
20. He is the _____ of all Light.
21. What are the sun and moon?
22. What are some words that show His eternity?
23. Quote Hebrews chapter 12 verse 29.
24. What are the rich in this world charged to be?
25. Who are the rich, as well as the poor, to trust in?
26. Quote 2 Peter chapter 3 verses 10 AND 11.
27. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 6 verse 18.
28. What is willing to communicate telling Timothy?
29. Where are they to lay up in store for the days to come?
30. Quote Matthew chapter 6 verses 19 and 20.
31. What did Paul tell Timothy to avoid in verse 20?
32. The Bible is the _____ that everything else should be judged by.

This letter {epistle} was written to Timothy by Paul from Rome. It was written somewhere between 65 A.D. and 67 A.D. Some believe this letter to be written by Paul while he was waiting to be executed. It is obvious in this letter that Paul was no longer under house arrest, but was imprisoned. The letter was written from Rome. Some believe this to be the last thing Paul wrote.

From the history books, we learn that Rome burned in 64 A.D. We, also, know it is a legend that Nero played a fiddle while Rome burned. It seems that Nero blamed the Christians for the burning of Rome, and to save his own neck, he killed many of them. It seems that the beheading of Paul was somehow connected to all of this. We know that at first Paul was not put in prison, but when this happened, he had been put in prison. The charges against the Christians, possibly, was what actually got Paul executed. All of this is from history, and not the Bible. It does, however, help us understand a little better the circumstances of the writing of this second letter to Timothy.

We will now begin the verse by verse study in II Timothy 1:1 "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,"

Notice, Paul makes it very clear, that his calling to preach was of the will of God, and not his own will. The message that Paul had for everyone, everywhere was the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Let us touch one more time on the name, Christ Jesus. Christ {Messiah} means, the Anointed One. Jesus means Jehovah Saviour. Christians alone, of all religions, have hope of the resurrection.

II Timothy 1:2 "To Timothy, [my] dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, [and] peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

Notice, the love that Paul shows Timothy, in the name that he calls him in the introduction of the letter. Timothy was not Paul's son in the flesh. He was Paul's son in the fact that Paul had trained him in the ministry. Even in this, we can see the devotion that Paul has for Timothy. Paul knows, if he is executed, that Timothy will carry on the work. Paul knew better than anyone else at this point, that the only real peace is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

II Timothy 1:3 "I thank God, whom I serve from [my] forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;"

Paul is speaking of God the Father here, because his forefathers were Jews. Paul is explaining that his conscience is clear. Paul prayed for Timothy every day. No one knew better the hardships that faced those who lived for Jesus than Paul. This mention of his forefathers and his pure conscience is, also, to let Timothy know that he had not done anything wrong in the sight of God the Father, by worshipping Jesus.

II Timothy 1:4 "Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;"

Paul, facing death, wanted to see his beloved Timothy one more time. Any parent, facing death of the body, longs to see their children one more time. He knew that to see Timothy would bring him great joy. He, also, was concerned at the grief that Timothy would experience at his death. He thought, perhaps, if he could see him one more time, he could comfort Timothy. His prayers were partly that Timothy would not weaken in the faith, when he was executed.

II Timothy 1:5 "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."

Paul is reminding Timothy that his faith has never faltered. He knew the faith of Timothy's mother and grandmother had been strong, and that same faith had been instilled in Timothy. "Unfeigned" means sincere. Lois and Eunice were both Jews and Christians; Jews by birth and Christians by faith.

II Timothy 1:6 "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands."

It seems that Paul, himself, had anointed Timothy. The gift of God is one or more of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Some of the gifts are miracles, healings, etc. Read the 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians to learn more about the gifts of the Spirit. We do not know for sure how many of these gifts of the Spirit Timothy had been anointed with. We do know he had some of the gifts. These gifts of the Spirit are received when the leaders of the church lay their hands on you, and you receive gifts from the Holy Spirit of God. Paul is telling Timothy, here, to use the gift that God has given him. The gifts grows with use.

II Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Paul is reminding Timothy to not let his death cause him to fear. Fear is the opposite of faith. The spirit of fear is from the enemy the devil. God has given him, and us, the power to overcome fear in our life. Great faith does away with fear. God's love for us is enough to keep us going. He had given Timothy, and will give all of us, a sound mind. Usually nerve problems come because of things we cannot decide in our life. When we are at peace with God and man, our mind is clear. In the book of Acts, we see that the Holy Ghost brings the power of God in our life.

II Timothy 1:8 "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;"

Timothy, was perhaps, a shy person, and Paul is telling him to be bold in the Lord. He asks Timothy to not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord. The following is what Jesus had to say about this very thing. Mark 8:38 "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Paul wanted Timothy to become bold in the Lord, even in the face of death. Paul was not promising Timothy that he would not suffer for Christ, but was telling Him to draw his strength to face the hardships from Jesus.

II Timothy 1:9 "Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,"

By grace are ye saved, not of works lest any man should boast. Jesus Christ gave His body on the cross that you and I might be saved. We are not saved, because we are worthy, but because He is worthy. It is the precious blood of the Lamb of God {Jesus Christ} that saved us. He traded us His righteousness for our sin. Jesus took our sin upon His body on the cross. He in turn clothed us in His righteousness. The plan of salvation was from the foundation of the world. We are saved to become sons of God. It was part of the plan for us to become sons of God.

II Timothy 1:10 "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:"

To "make manifest" is to make real. Jesus abolished sin {for the believer} on the cross. He abolished death, when He rose from the tomb. To those who will believe, He has given eternal life. It was the Light of Jesus that shone on Paul and caused him to believe. The good news of the gospel is that we have eternal life in Jesus Christ. Death and sin no longer rule in our life. When we accept Jesus as our Saviour, we receive forgiveness of sins and receive eternal life in Him.

II Timothy 1:11 "Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."

Paul is speaking of three different things here. Preaching, in this sense, is to bring people to the knowledge of God and get them saved. Apostle, in the sense it is used here, would mean anointed with signs and wonders following. The Gentiles had never been taught in God's ways, as the Jews had. Paul was to teach them and bring them along in the ways of God. Jesus had specifically called Paul to minister to the Gentiles.

II Timothy 1:12 "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

Jesus left no question about it when He called Paul. He told him he would suffer for the gospel. Acts 9:16 "For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." To suffer for Christ, brings great rewards in heaven. Romans 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together." Paul, never once, complained about the suffering. He felt that the job he was given was worth suffering for. Paul's suffering was because he was a preacher, apostle, and teacher of the Gentiles. His greatest persecution came from the Jews, who could not accept the Gentiles as equals. Paul was thoroughly convinced that God was able to protect him wherever he was, if that was part of God's plan. Paul was ready and willing to go and be with God, if that were his fate. Paul was not ashamed to be imprisoned, or even killed for the gospel. He knew God was with him.

II Timothy 1:13 "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

The main purpose of this chapter was to help Timothy stand strong in the time of Paul's death. Keep the faith and continue to love God more than you love your own life, was the message he wanted Timothy to remember. Do not be shaken by what happens, stay in the Word of God. This is like a father comforting a son at his death. Paul had made a pattern with his life that Timothy must follow. The sound words that Paul had brought set the pattern for the others to follow. Paul always expressed the importance of the Word. Place your faith and your love in Jesus.

II Timothy 1:14 "That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us."

In the last lesson, we discovered that the Truth was the good thing that had been committed to Timothy. The Holy Ghost leads us into all Truth. John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." The Holy Ghost is our Teacher and Guide.

II Timothy 1:15 "This thou knowest, that all they which are in Asia be turned away from me; of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes."

This is speaking, probably, of those of Asia who were in Rome with Paul. They probably had not stood up for Paul fearing the loss of their life. Paul, of course, does not mean the churches of Asia. This has to be speaking of the Christians from Asia who had followed Paul. This letter to Timothy was actually going to Ephesus which was a city in Asia.

II Timothy 1:16 "The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:"

We see from this that not everyone had abandoned Paul. He had visited Paul while he had been in prison. Paul speaks a blessing on Onesiphorus' entire family for the comfort he gave him.

II Timothy 1:17 "But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found [me]."

It seems he was a Christian from another area other than Rome. He had gone to the trouble to look up Paul and help him. The very diligently would make you believe, it was not easy to get in to see Paul.

II Timothy 1:18 "The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well."

We see from this that he was from Ephesus which was in Asia. Perhaps, Paul mentioned him to show an exception. Paul is saying, that God will reward him in the day of the Lord. This man had come a very long way, and searched Paul out to help him in his time of need. God would not overlook this. He would be mightily blessed in the life to come. He would receive a prophet's reward.

2 Timothy 1 Questions

1. What is another name letter is called?
2. Who wrote this letter to Timothy.
3. Where was he, when he wrote it?
4. Approximately when was it written?
5. When do the history books tell us that Rome burned?
6. Who do the fables say fiddled while Rome burned?
7. What terrible outcome for the Christians occurred, because of Rome burning?
8. How does history say Paul was killed?
9. What does Paul call himself in verse 1?
10. What endearing relation does Paul call Timothy in verse two?
11. Was he really Paul's son?
12. What reassurance does Paul have that the work will go on, if he is executed?
13. Where is the only peace any of us can find?
14. Why does Paul mention his forefathers in verse 3?
15. How often did Paul pray for Timothy?
16. What did Paul desire Timothy to do?
17. Paul told Timothy, he was mindful of _____.
18. What two women made Paul confident of Timothy's strength in the faith?
19. What does "unfeigned" mean?
20. Paul wanted Timothy to stir up what within him?
21. Who had annointed Timothy?
22. What chapter of the Bible tells us of the gifts of the Spirit?
23. How are the gifts of the Spirit received?
24. God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of _____, and of _____, and of a _____.
25. What does away with fear?
26. What two things did Paul tell Timothy not to be ashamed of?
27. Why was Paul telling him to be bold?
28. Quote Mark chapter 8 verse 38.
29. God has called us, not because of our works, but because of what?
30. What does to "make manifest" mean?
31. What did Jesus abolish for the believer?
32. What 3 things did Paul say, he was appointed to be?
33. Quote 2 Timothy chapter 1 verse 12.
34. What does Romans chapter 8 verse 17 tell us about suffering with Christ?
35. Who did Paul's greatest persecution come from?
36. What was the main purpose of this chapter?
37. What was the good thing which was committed unto him?
38. Who turned against Paul in time of trouble?
39. Who stood by him and refreshed him?
40. Where was Ephesus located?

We will begin in II Timothy 2:1 "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."

This is the same Scripture as the following one, just worded a little differently. Ephesians 6:10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." It is not in our strength that we do anything, it is in the strength of the Lord. In our weakness, He is strong.

II Timothy 2:2 "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

It seems, to me, that Paul is more concerned about the work being carried on after his death, than he is of dying. He is, also, very concerned that they do not teach another gospel, than the gospel that he had taught. Paul knows that Timothy will bring what he has taught him. He is telling Timothy to seek out later ministers that had begun under his ministry, and encourage them to teach the pure gospel that he had brought. Paul was afraid that many of the doctrines would be affected too badly by the customs of the people who they were ministering to. Paul felt that his converts would follow his teachings better, when they were teaching others.

II Timothy 2:3 "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

There is a battle going on between the flesh and the Spirit, and it has been going on ever since Paul spoke this and before. Every person who ministers in any capacity, is a soldier in God's army. We are in this war to the death. Paul knew this, as he faced death. Since Paul was martyred, there have been many believers who have given their lives for the gospel's sake. This war is real. We are told, in the 6th chapter of Ephesians to put on the whole armour of God in this battle. The war is real. We must be willing to face any hardship in the name of Jesus. Jesus is our Commander and Chief. We march at His orders. Paul speaks with full knowledge of this war that rages. He faced many hardships in his ministry, and is warning Timothy to be prepared.

II Timothy 2:4 "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of [this] life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

Paul is explaining to Timothy the necessity of having nothing else on his mind while he is a soldier of the gospel. He cannot divide his attention with other things of the world and win the battle. Soldiers must concentrate on one thing, and that is winning the war. This means that his thoughts cannot be divided with a job, or any other affair at hand. A good soldier must be well trained. He must keep his weapon {Bible} with him at all times. He must watch his powder {Word of God} and not let it get wet. It greatly concerns me that many ministers today are using watered down versions of the Word of God. Any version of the Bible that leaves out the blood, or that indicates in any way that Jesus was not God in the flesh, is dangerous. That would be getting our powder wet. The power of our weapon is the Word of God within its covers. The two edged sword is the Bible, Old and New Testament. When over 30,000 Israelites were with Gideon to fight, God had Gideon send

all of them home but 300. This 300 did not even lay their weapon down to drink. It is important for a soldier of the Lord's to keep his Bible with him all the time. Only one out of 100 pleased the Commander and Chief. They were all Israelites {symbolic of believers}. Are you the 1 in 100 who will take up the battle for our Lord Jesus Christ?

II Timothy 2:5 "And if a man also strive for masteries, [yet] is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully."

Paul is saying, whatever you do, do it within the law. Do not take shortcuts. Fight the good fight within the law. Then when you win, you have done it honestly.

II Timothy 2:6 "The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits."

You cannot be a teacher of the Word of God, until you know the Word of God yourself. You can not win people to Christ, until you are a Christian yourself. You must know how to work, before your work is productive.

II Timothy 2:7 "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."

Paul wants Timothy to read between the lines and understand what he is really saying to him. Jesus spoke in parables and then told His disciples the meaning of the parables. Paul is saying, let the Holy Spirit within you open your understanding to what I have said. You have ears to hear. Understand in your inner man.

II Timothy 2:8 "Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:"

There are some things that are basic to Christianity. One of the things is to believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." You see, believing that Jesus rose from the dead is basic to salvation. Paul throws in that Jesus fulfilled the law of the Jews {He was seed of David}. Mary was descended from David. "According to my gospel", just means that Paul preached and taught the resurrection of Jesus.

II Timothy 2:9 "Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, [even] unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound."

Preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, and in it proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus, is what brought Paul to Rome in chains. His trouble with the Jews, which started his imprisonment, was because he told them they had rejected their Messiah. Some Jews do not believe in life after death, and that was another thing he had taught. They had him imprisoned, and he had appealed to Caesar in Rome.

II Timothy 2:10 "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

Elect has to do with election or predestination. I do not believe we are chosen to be saved. I believe that all mankind who believes in Jesus Christ are chosen to be saved. This is an act of our own free will. I do believe that Almighty God foreknew who those who would believe were and wrote their names in the Lamb's book of life. The "elect", then, would be those who will choose to follow Jesus Christ as their Saviour. Paul endured these hardships, so that all who would believe would have that opportunity. Colossians 1:27 "To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" When we are born again, we no longer live this life, but Christ lives the life within us. Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

II Timothy 2:11 "[It is] a faithful saying: For if we be dead with [him], we shall also live with [him]:"

In water baptism, we bury that old man of flesh in that watery grave and a new man of the spirit rises from that grave. The flesh represents sins of this life. We rise a new creature in Christ. Our sin died on the cross on the body of Jesus Christ. Our new nature is a spirit nature. Jesus is the quickening Spirit. Read the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians beginning with the 40th verse to understand this better. Because He arose, we shall rise, also. To die with Him, is to put our affections on things in the heavens, and not on things of this sinful earth.

II Timothy 2:12 "If we suffer, we shall also reign with [him]: if we deny [him], he also will deny us:"

We read of this very thing in Mark 8:38 "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Romans 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together." The following Scripture is in the very words of Jesus when He is saying what will happen to those who recognize Him and work for Him on the earth. Matthew 25:21 "His lord said unto him, Well done, [thou] good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

2 Timothy 2 Questions

1. What does Paul call Timothy in verse 1?
2. What Scripture, from Ephesians, is saying the same thing?
3. Where does the strength of the believer come from?
4. What is Paul more concerned about than his death?
5. Who did Paul tell Timothy to commit his teachings to?
6. What was Paul afraid might happen to the gospel?
7. Paul told Timothy to endure hardness as whom?
8. What is the battle that is raging even today between?
9. This war is so real, that many will be _____.
10. Where do we find what the whole armour of God is?
11. Who is our Commander and Chief?
12. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the _____ of this life.
13. What should soldiers be concentrating on?
14. What is the Christian's weapon?
15. What is the powder?
16. How can you tell, if you are reading a watered down version of the Bible?
17. How many of the 30,000 Israelites, finally went to war with Gideon?
18. Why were these 300 chosen?
19. Are you in the 1 in 100 who will take up the battle for our Lord Jesus Christ?
20. Verse 5 says we must war _____.
21. You can not be a teacher of the Word, until what?
22. What must you be, before you can win someone to Christ?
23. What is verse 7 really saying?
24. Who was Jesus Christ seed of in verse 8?
25. What are some of the things basic to Christianity?
26. What does "according to my gospel" mean?
27. What had brought Paul to Rome in chains?
28. Paul endured all things for the _____ sake.
29. Who are "the elect"?
30. Quote Colossians chapter 1 verse 27.
31. Quote Galatians chapter 2 verse 20.
32. What should happen in water baptism?
33. Where can we read thoroughly about the resurrection of the dead?
34. If we suffer, we shall also _____ with Him.
35. Quote Matthew chapter 25 verse 21.

In the previous lesson, Paul had instructed Timothy, and in turn all of us, how to fight the good fight for the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will now resume the lesson in II Timothy 2:13 "If we believe not, [yet] he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."

Paul is saying here, if we choose not to believe, it does not make the gospel any the less the Truth. The gospel is Truth, whether we believe it, or not. Every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God is True. He will keep every promise He has ever made, whether we benefit from it, or not. It is our choice to believe and receive the promises, or not believe and be rejected of Him.

II Timothy 2:14 "Of these things put [them] in remembrance, charging [them] before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, [but] to the subverting of the hearers."

Paul is saying here, do not get caught up in petty doctrinal differences. Arguments over doctrinal differences are of no use to anyone, except the devil. Arguments divide the people. Really there are so few absolute things that must be conformed to, to be a Christian. Of course, the main one is to believe that Jesus was God manifest in the flesh, that He died for our sins, and that He rose again. This is what I mean about basic. I can worship with those who believe these few things. We may not agree on whether a woman should preach, or not. We may not agree on the exact length a man's hair should be. We may not agree on the dress code of the church, but I can worship with them, if this is the only petty things we disagree on. This is what Paul is speaking of. Stay doctrinally sound on the important things and don't argue about the rest. You would think Christians of different denominations were not of the same family of God, when you hear them argue about these petty things.

II Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Just a handful of lessons on the Bible at any school is not enough to prepare you to minister. Paul told Timothy, stay in the Word of God. Continually study and learn more each day. The only way to rightly divide the Word of Truth, is to stay in the Bible studying every day, and let the Holy Spirit of God teach you the meaning of the Scriptures. Learning Words will not help you. Learning the meaning of those Words will make you strong in the Lord. Learn what each Scripture means to you as an individual. Let God speak to your heart in His Word.

II Timothy 2:16 "But shun profane [and] vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."

Some people cannot discuss the Bible without winding up in an argument. Run away from that type of argument. Titus 3:9 " But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain." This type of thing does not help anyone, and it definitely hurts the participants.

II Timothy 2:17 "And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;"

"Canker", in this Scripture, means gangrene. The Word of God brings life. The word of man brings death. In this case, the death is a poison that spreads through the blood system. He is saying, that the false words that Hymenaeus and Philetus said were very destructive. These two were bringing heresy into the church {the body of Christ}.

II Timothy 2:18 "Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some."

Now, we see what the error in the message they were bringing was. This reminds me so much of the people in our day, who say that the teachings in Revelation have already happened. I will just ask you one question pertaining to that. When was every human on the earth marked with a number in his right hand or in his forehead? You see how silly some of these things are. This, in my opinion, is caused by not studying the Scriptures thoroughly. The terrible thing is that some other people believed this lie.

II Timothy 2:19 "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

The foundation that the church is built upon is the Rock {Jesus Christ}. Winds of false doctrine can come and go, but the church will not be moved from that foundation. We, Christians, are the church. When we plant our feet on that solid Rock, we are secure in Him. Our name is written in the Lamb's book of life. When you put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ, you will not fall. If you are a Christian, you are trying to become more Christ-like every day. The desire of our heart is to please Him. We have departed from iniquity, and we are travelling on the road that leads to heaven.

II Timothy 2:20 "But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour."

This probably is speaking of the different types of people who make up the church. Some of the people who profess Christianity do not have a very deep walk with God. In fact, some of them are like the wood spoken of here. Wood symbolizes the world. This means that they have not gotten the world out of their walk. The earth is the same thing, their Christianity will not hold water. The silver means redemption. I would say the vessel of silver has experienced redemption. They would know Jesus as Saviour. The vessel of Gold, would be the one who had made Christ Lord of his life, as well as Saviour. They would be letting Christ live in them. Gold symbolizes God. Those who have not given up their worldly ways would be vessels of dishonor. The silver and the gold would be vessels of honor. These vessels of dishonor are like the lukewarm Christian, who has not allowed God to remove the world from their lives.

II Timothy 2:21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, [and] prepared unto every good work.

This is speaking of what these earthly vessels of dishonor can do to become vessels of honor. Notice, that the individual must decide to get rid of this worldliness. Come to Jesus, and ask Him to burn out the worldliness, and leave a vessel of honor. Gold and silver just become more pure as the heat is applied to them. The wood will burn up as heat is applied. The trials {heat} just removes the worldliness. This is called, being tried in the fire. Fire purifies and makes holy. When God gets through refining us, we are holy in His sight. We are set aside for His purpose. Now, we can do good work that the Master has for us to do the way He would have us do it.

II Timothy 2:22 "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

We have spoken so much in these lessons about putting our flesh to death that our spirit might rule. The flesh and its lust are what cause us to sin. If we put our body under the control of our spirit, we will make the right decisions. Faith, charity, and peace are fruit of the Spirit. These are things that automatically come when we are in right standing with God.

II Timothy 2:23 "But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes."

This is what I said earlier. Most misunderstandings of the Word of God come from people who have not truly studied the Word of God. The worst thing a person can do, is to pick one or two Scriptures out of the Bible and base what you believe on that. Another problem is to just read one writer in the Bible, and base what you believe on his writings. To avoid strife, do not discuss the Bible with people that do either of these things. They are not well rounded in the Scriptures. A person must study the entire Bible thoroughly to truly understand its meaning. The Holy Spirit must be your guide as you study the Word to open your understanding. You will never know all there is to know, but this will give you a working knowledge.

II Timothy 2:24 "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all [men], apt to teach, patient,"

The servant of the Lord is speaking of those who preach, or minister in some capacity. They should not engage in arguments that go nowhere. They should be of a gentle nature. They should be willing to teach when needed and be patient while others are learning.

II Timothy 2:25 "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;"

Those that oppose themselves are those who have not accepted Jesus as Saviour. They would be their own worst enemy. Some men have never been taught the Word of God. This, then, would be teaching someone who did not know the Word. To be able to get them to listen, it would be necessary to teach from meekness, not in a threatening manner. They would not listen to threats. I Corinthians 1:21 "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." If your preaching or teaching could cause the people to believe, they would be saved. The main thing is stay with the Truth. It is the Truth that sets them free.

II Timothy 2:26 "And [that] they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."

It must be an act of the person's free will to believe and receive salvation. Until they believe, they are under the curse of sin and death. The devil has them snared. The Truth of the gospel will set them free. In Jesus, sin and death are defeated. Remember, it is an act of our own free will to get out of the snare of the devil by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise God! Jesus set us free.

2 Timothy 3 Questions

1. Quote 2 Timothy chapter 2 verse 13.
2. What is Paul really saying in this?
3. What was Paul wanting them to put in remembrance?
4. What good do arguments of doctrine do?
5. The author says she can worship with you, if you believe what basic things?
6. What are some of the foolish doctrinal differences that split churches and should not?
7. Study to show thyself _____ unto God.
8. A workman that needeth not to be _____.
9. How are the only ways you can be qualified to rightly divide the Word of God?
10. Learning the Words of the Bible will not help you, what will help you?
11. Shun profane and vain _____.
12. Quote Titus chapter 3 verse 9.
13. What does the word "canker" mean in verse 17?
14. Who are the body of Christ?
15. What false statement had Hymenaeus and Philetus made?
16. What does the author believe causes people to believe an untruth about the Word of God?
17. Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from _____.
18. Who is the Rock the church is built upon?
19. What is the seal the Christian has?
20. Quote 2 Timothy chapter 2 verse 20.
21. Which are the vessels of honor?
22. Which are the vessels of dishonor?
23. What do these vessels symbolize?
24. What does wood symbolize?
25. What does silver symbolize?
26. What does gold symbolize?
27. What are the vessels of dishonor like?
28. What should a person do to become a vessel of honor?
29. Flee youthful _____.
30. What are some of the fruit of the Spirit that show up in your life when you flee youthful lust?
31. What kind of questions should we avoid?
32. What must the servant of the Lord be like?
33. What is meant by opposing themselves?
34. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 21.
35. That they may recover themselves out of the _____ of the _____.

We will begin this lesson in II Timothy 3:1 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."

In previous lessons, Paul has been cautioning Timothy of false teaching that will come in the church. In this lesson, Paul speaks prophetically of the last days. This will be things that are happening primarily out of the church in society itself, but much of it taking place in the church, as well. Perilous times would be times of great uncertainty. Possibly, a better way to say this would be to say dangerous times. I believe if you will carefully investigate this with me, you will agree this is speaking of the very day we live in.

II Timothy 3:2 "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,"

There has never been a time when the statement "lovers of their own selves" was more true than in our society today. I believe that much of this can be blamed on Secular Humanism in the public schools. Children are taught that everything is relative to something else. They are not taught absolutes, especially of discipline. The Bible teaches absolutes. The child, that grows up believing himself to be the center of everything, finds it difficult to put God at the center of his life. They can easily fall into being lovers of their own selves. When you believe that you are the center of everything, then you believe that anything you want should be yours, even if it belongs to someone else. You can see that coveting is a form of loving yourself, as well. Bragging seems to be the rule of the day.

Blasphemers are everywhere. The Television, movie houses, and video rentals all lean toward movies that are rated P.G., R., or X, which means they are full of cursing. Many times the name of God is included in the cursing, which would certainly be blaspheming. This is so prevalent that children and adults who watch these filthy movies do not even realize this blaspheming is going on. Their brains have been so conditioned to accept it that they are immune to it. They do not take thought that their brains are like a computer recording all of these bad words to be used later, when they least expect it.

There are so many divorces in our society today, that a child has to think a minute or two to remember just who is their parent. Many grandparents are raising their grandchildren, because the children are on drugs, or worse. Some few parents are trying to raise their children with respect for their parents, but they are thrown with children from problem homes in the schools to such an extent that many otherwise obedient children, become disobedient because of association.

In this affluent society, children have been given so many things they did not earn, that they have the idea society owes them a living. They never have to wait to a special occasion to receive their wants, so they become unthankful.

To say that we are unholy in our society today, is a gross understatement. Very few even know the meaning of the word. The 10 Commandments of the Bible are broken so often, that many do not even

remember what they are. God is holy. He said for us to be holy, because He is Holy. To be "holy" means to live above sin. In our society, there are few marriages, most people just live together. The Bible calls that adultery. Most everyone covets, because they want to keep up with the Jones'. I could go on and on. Homosexuals live together and call it an alternate life style. God calls it an abominable sin. We would have to look around us and say we are unholy as a society.

II Timothy 3:3 "Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,"

One of the disgraces of our society today, is how we throw our parents away when they get old. We push their care off on someone who does not even know them. Mothers are abandoning their children. Women are destroying their unborn children. This is without natural affection. When I was a child, a person would shake hands with you on a deal, and it was done. People did not sue each other over slight things. Now to insure that an agreement is legal, you must have an agreement written down and signed before witnesses. People will break a truce, if it will advantage them. We do not know our neighbors, so we accuse them of things we do not know to be true. Incontinent means without self-control. Our rehabilitation hospitals can vouch for that. It is of national concern how to get people off alcohol and drugs. This is a society gone mad. Fierce describes what is going on with the drive-by shootings. This society makes fun of those who try to live holy before the Lord. They call us "goody two-shoes". I believe the reason they despise those trying to live good, is because they show them how bad they are by comparison.

II Timothy 3:4 "Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;"

True loyalty seems to be a thing of the past. For a few dollars, your best friend will do you in. The main one we are traitors to is ourself. "Heady" means falling forward. The Bible would call this unstable in all thy ways. Highminded means to inflate with self conceit. How many things in our life come before God? What excuses do we make for not worshipping in church? I can think of a few. How about golf, fishing, hunting, football, basketball, gardening, movies, etc. I could go on and on. Anything that you enjoy more than fellowshiping with God falls into this category, {even work}.

II Timothy 3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

We may appear to be a Christian to the world, we may even profess to being a Christian. My question is, if you were on trial for being a Christian, could you be convicted by the evidence in your life? Would God declare you a Christian, by the condition of your heart, or would he say get away from me, I never knew you? Is the power of God working in you? God never changes. Do you believe that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, or have you put limits on the power of God?

II Timothy 3:6 "For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,"

This, to me, is speaking of someone who pretends to be of God convincing those {silly women} who are not grounded in the Word of God, to follow a false teaching. We see some religions today which are actually very sensual in nature. Could that be what this is talking about? Lust does not have to be just sex, it can be flesh desires for anything that is forbidden of God. The only way to be smart enough not to fall for something appealing to your flesh, is to know the Word of God and get your flesh under the control of the spirit. Do not listen to the lust of the flesh. Let the Spirit of God direct your decisions.

II Timothy 3:7 "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

This statement, coupled with the statement above, makes you realize that this could be false doctrines that appeal to the flesh of mankind. The women are more vulnerable, because they have more time to listen to these false teachings. If the teaching appeals to your flesh, beware. It is probably not of God, if it appeals to the flesh. Some people are constantly looking for something new. They read every how-to book they can find and never read their Bible. The Bible has the answers to all of life's problems. Look there first. Then read your other books. The Bible is the Truth.

Let me stop here, and ask you, have you not seen our society in this warning on the last days? It seems to me that each thing fits our society to a T. Next, I might ask, what are you going to do about it? We must stop and take stock of ourselves, and do what we can to change the world around us. Pray for God to become real in your life. Let Jesus be your Lord, as well as your Saviour. Before you get involved in anything, ask yourself is this sound by Bible standards? Read the guidebook to a happy, productive, holy life. It is as near as your hand, it is the Holy Bible.

2 Timothy 4 Questions

1. What kind of times will there be in the last days
2. What does this mean?
3. Men shall be lovers of their _____.
4. What does the author think is behind people being in love with themselves?
5. What is wrong with Secular Humanism?
6. How does loving yourself cause you to covet?
7. What is causing the blasphemy of our day?
8. What is our brain really?
9. Why are children being disobedient to parents?
10. What is wrong with being an affluent society?
11. What does "holy" mean?
12. What does the Bible call living together without benefit of marriage?
13. What does the Bible call the homosexual lifestyle?
14. What is one of the disgraces of our society?
15. Describe "without natural affection".
16. What is a trucebreaker?
17. What does "incontinent" mean?
18. Give some examples of the incontinent.
19. What could drive-by shootings be called?
20. What are the people called who are trying to live for God?
21. What does "heady" mean?
22. What excuses do you make to God for not fellowshiping with Him?
23. If you were on trial for being a Christian, could you be convicted by the evidence in your life?
24. Who are being led away in verse 6?
25. Who are leading them away?
26. If the message is appealing to your flesh, what should that tell you?
27. Have you seen our society in this lesson today?

We will begin this lesson in II Timothy 3:8 "Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."

The Bible does not tell us exactly who this Jannes and Jambres are. The history books say that they were the magicians who withstood Moses. Even though they withstood, as the 10 plagues on Egypt progressed, we see the magicians proclaiming to Pharaoh that Moses' God was God, and they could not fight against Him. There will be a time when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. In the last lesson, we were speaking of conditions on the earth in the last days. Now, this is saying, those same people will resist the Truth {Jesus}. In the end, they will be like the magicians who realize and believe. "Reprobate" means reject. These are those who have refused to believe in Jesus, then. Those who have corrupt or evil minds are not looking for the Truth. This is not speaking of an ordinary sinner. This is someone who has opposed God in every way. These would be sinners who have gone almost too far.

II Timothy 3:9 "But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all [men], as theirs also was."

We know that it did not take God and Moses very long to discredit the magicians, and it will not be hidden forever the evil of these with a reprobate mind either. Truth always wins out. When the Light of God shines on these deeds of these evil ones, it will be apparent to everyone their error. False doctrines, in a church, may flourish for awhile, but when the Truth comes, it reveals the error of the false doctrine.

II Timothy 3:10 "But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,"

Paul is saying here, that he has not hidden what he believes from anyone. The way Paul had conducted his life spoke for him, as well as the words he spoke. It was no secret to anyone that Paul had totally dedicated himself to the service of the Lord. He had fought hard, even in Jerusalem, for what he believed the doctrine of the church to be. He had conducted his life in a manner of self sacrifice. He had endured stonings and many other hardships to bring the message of the gospel to the unsaved world. He said himself, that he would be all things to all people, that by all means he might save some. His purpose was to bring as many as possible to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. His faith had been undaunted by the hardships. He suffered long with the stripes, beatings, shipwreck, and the utter hate of his fellow Jews. He did not ask anyone to support him in the ministry. Most of his ministry, he was a tentmaker, so he would not be a burden to others. Those that did help him, was of their own free will, like the church at Philippi. His patience was demonstrated when he waited for years to even be tried for things he was not guilty of.

II Timothy 3:11 "Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of [them] all the Lord delivered me."

The Jews persecuted him the most of any. The Lord was with him in every circumstance. None of the places mentioned here that he suffered were unto the death. That persecution would be reserved for Rome. Paul, not only endured these persecutions, but thought himself honored to endure them for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

II Timothy 3:12 "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

This was true in Paul's time, and is also true today. Jesus had told Paul that he would suffer for the gospel's sake. Throughout the Old Testament and the New Testament, we find persecutions abound for those servants of God. Paul is saying, that he is not alone in the persecution. It comes to all who serve God.

II Timothy 3:13 "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

This false doctrine had already started then, and the church was just a few years old. The only thing that would break this deadly chain of getting worse and worse, would be to come in direct contact with the Truth. A false doctrine does not get better as it is told. It comes from Satan in the first place, and gets worse and worse every time it is told. When a person is evil, his conscience gets where it is not working. Each sin gets a little worse until he is totally consumed with sin.

II Timothy 3:14 "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned [them];"

Paul is saying, do not let your head be turned by all of these false doctrines. Stay with the good news of the gospel that was first presented to you. Apply the things you have learned more and more. Grow in the grace that God has provided for you. Paul reminds Timothy here, that not only are the things he learned true, but Paul was truthful, as well. He is saying to Timothy, you know I teach the truth. Paul knows, also, that Timothy's mother and grandmother had taught Timothy the Scriptures all of his life. He needed to rely on the truths he had learned through them.

II Timothy 3:15 "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

All of the books of men pale by comparison to the Holy Word of God. It seems that even when he was a child, his mother and grandmother had taught him of Jesus. It was part of his very fiber. They had taught him that salvation is in none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. He had accepted Jesus for himself when he came to the age of accountability. Paul is saying to Timothy, do not let these teachings fade from your memory. Keep them ever before you. They were good enough to save you, they are, also, good enough to live by. Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ, and that alone. We remember, here, that Timothy was preaching where the Judaizers were trying to put him back under the law. Paul reminds him of what saved him.

II Timothy 3:16 "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

My own opinion of the Bible, Word of God, or Scriptures, whichever you decide to call them, is that they are like looking into the face of Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God. The word "inspired" means God breathed. I prefer to say that God is the author of the Bible and people like Paul are the penman. II Peter 1:21 "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost." God has always brought messages to His people through the mouth, or pen, of men. I like to think of the Bible as God's instruction to man for living victorious lives. You might think of it as a road map which guides us at every intersection of life. If we stick with the guide, it will keep us from taking the wrong turn. If the Bible says something, there is a reason. We may not understand the reason at the time, but if it says it, it has a purpose. We can learn from other's experiences in the Bible. I Corinthians 10:11 "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." If it were not for the Scriptures, we would not know how to be righteous. Righteousness is received, not earned. We are clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

II Timothy 3:17 "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The word that was translated man in the verse above is not someone of the male gender, but a human being, man or woman. Acts 9:36 "Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did." Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." I Timothy 6:11 "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness." Whoever you are, if you are called to work for God, you must set an example for others in the way you live. The most important thing in working for God, is the fact that you turn your will over to the Father. You must let the Holy Spirit teach you the Truth of the Word of God, that you might bring the Truth to others. Learn all you can about the Word of God, share with others what you know.

2 Timothy 5 Questions

1. Who were Jannes and Jambres, probably?
2. What were they?
3. Did they change their minds?
4. How many plagues did God send on Egypt?
5. Who is the Truth?
6. What does "reprobate" here, mean?
7. Their folly shall be known to all _____.
8. What reveals the error of these reprobates?
9. What did Paul say, that Timothy knew about him in verse 10?
10. What kind of hardships had Paul faced?
11. What had Paul dedicated himself to?
12. Why was Paul all things to all people?
13. How had Paul made his living while he preached?
14. What church helped Paul?
15. Who persecuted Paul the most?
16. Name some of the places where Paul was persecuted?
17. Where did Paul die, reportedly?
18. What attitude did Paul have about the persecutions?
19. Quote 2 Timothy chapter 3 verse 12.
20. Evil men and seducers shall wax _____ and _____.
21. What did Paul tell Timothy to continue in?
22. Who, besides Paul, had taught Timothy the Scriptures?
23. How long had Timothy known the Scriptures.
24. The Holy Scriptures will make you wise unto _____.
25. Where was Timothy teaching?
26. All Scripture is given by _____ of God.
27. It is profitable for _____, for _____, for _____, for _____ in righteousness.
28. What is the authors opinion of the Bible?
29. What does "inspired" mean?
30. Quote 2 Timothy chapter 3 verse 17.

We will begin this lesson in II Timothy 4:1 "I charge [thee] therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;"

The "quick", in the verse above, are speaking of those who will be alive at the coming of the Lord. These are those who will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. The word "therefore" connects this chapter to the preceding chapter. In the light of all the signs of the last days in the last chapter, this is what you are to do. Paul says, God and the Lord Jesus Christ are my witness that I am guiding you correctly. At His appearing means when Jesus appears in the sky to call His children out of the great tribulation of this earth. Notice, His kingdom is separate. That is when he sets up "His kingdom" reign on this earth. This is the 1000 year millennium reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth. Jesus is the Judge of the world. We are judged His, or not His. The sheep {Christians} belong to Jesus. The rest belong to Satan.

II Timothy 4:2 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

I really like the fact that Paul does not just say preach. He says preach the Word. The Word of God {Bible} is the power of the message. "Being instant in season and out of season" is just saying stay ready all the time. Preach whenever and wherever you have the opportunity. "Reprove" and "rebuke" mean to tell a fault. When you see a brother in error, tell him. Matthew 18:15 "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." "Exhort" can mean to pray, comfort, or draw near. This is just saying not to get weary in preaching to those who are afar off. Preach to them, pray for them, in love, tell them of their errors, then preach to them again. Do not give up, until they draw nigh unto God. Give them the Truth, and do not get weary in giving the Truth. Have patience with them and they will hear and receive.

II Timothy 4:3 "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

We are experiencing this in the church world today. Sound doctrine teaches sacrifice of self. Sound doctrine teaches walking each day in the salvation Christ has provided for you. Sound doctrine teaches living a holy separated life to God. Sound doctrine is the Word of God. There is a great falling away in the church today, not only in the physical sense, but in the spiritual sense, as well. Many go to church, but want to hear a message of nothing but God's love. They would tell us not to speak against adultery or homosexual activity, because we will hurt some of the member's feelings. They would have us preach things pleasant to the flesh of man. The sermon that appeals to the flesh of mankind, is preaching to itching ears. I would say the time Paul was speaking of in the verse above is here. Not many want to hear about the blood of Jesus. Not many want to know that Jesus is Judge, as well as Saviour. Not many want to hear that we must take up our cross daily and follow Him. Most want to hear, that when they become a Christian, all of their problems will be gone. Most would like to hear, that when they

come to God, they will never be sick again. They want to believe that their money problems are over. The sad thing is that we are not equipping our people to face hardship. John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

II Timothy 4:4 "And they shall turn away [their] ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

The truth of the matter is, many will turn from the Truth to a good time religion which pleases their flesh. "Fables" are speaking of doctrines that are not Truth. Titus 1:14 "Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth." II Peter 1:16 "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." We all need to devote more time to the study of God's Word {Bible}. The Word will straighten out our, thinking and we will not be so easily swayed with messages that Paul would classify as fables.

II Timothy 4:5 "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

The work of the evangelist is to save the lost. This watching in all things means to stay grounded in the Word and be moderate. Paul warns Timothy again, that there are afflictions associated with serving God. The full proof is telling Timothy to not waver in his ministry. He must be fully persuaded, and, also, give this message without wavering from the Truth.

II Timothy 4:6 "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand."

Paul has probably been sentenced to die, when he wrote these words. He wanted Timothy to know that he was ready to die for the gospel. He probably was actually looking forward to being with his Lord and being out of this life of hardship.

II Timothy 4:7 "I have fought a good fight, I have finished [my] course, I have kept the faith:"

This is a gross understatement. Many men would have given up long ago. Paul's faith never wavered, regardless of the hardship he was facing. He had ministered to the very end. God has a job for each of us to do in this life. Paul is saying, he has done what the Lord Jesus called him to do. He believes in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord just as strongly at the end, as he did when he first met him on the road to Damascus.

II Timothy 4:8 "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Now that his work on this earth is done, he is looking forward to standing before the Lord Jesus and hear Him say, well done, thy good and faithful servant. The crown of righteousness is speaking of us being in right standing before God, because the Lord Jesus has clothed us in His righteousness. There will be a crown awaiting those who believe. I Peter 5:4

"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

II Timothy 4:9 "Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:"

Paul still wants to see Timothy one more time, before he departs this earth.

II Timothy 4:10 "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."

In great time of stress, those weak in the faith will leave. It seems from this statement, that Demas feared for his own life and left the work he had been doing with Paul. We must remember that Nero was having many of the Christians killed at this time. I do not believe that Titus or Crescens left for fear. Titus was probably sent to Dalmatia by Paul to minister. Little is known of Crescens.

II Timothy 4:11 "Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry."

Luke {the physician} had been faithful to God and to helping Paul. He had been with Paul on many of his journeys and, also, here in Rome. Luke, in the book of Acts, used "we" many times when speaking of Paul. Mark had settled his differences with Paul and had apparently been ministering with Timothy. We know that Paul had accepted him back in the work, because he said he would be useful to him here.

II Timothy 4:12 "And Tychicus have I sent to Ephesus."

It seems all of these men had been ministering under the direction of Paul. It seems Tychicus had gone to Ephesus when Paul could not be there himself.

II Timothy 4:13 "The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring [with thee], and the books, [but] especially the parchments."

Paul, being in prison, possibly needed the cloke for warmth. It seems that Paul had left these things, before he came back to Rome. It would be pure speculation to try to decide what these important parchments were.

II Timothy 4:14 "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:"

Paul was letting the Lord take vengeance on Alexander. Paul was truly following the Scripture. Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord.

II Timothy 4:15 "Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words."

It appears this Alexander was an enemy of the gospel. This is just a warning to Timothy to be aware of his evil.

II Timothy 4:16 "At my first answer no man stood with me, but all [men] forsook me: [I pray God] that it may not be laid to their charge."

Fear does strange things to very strong men. We learned about that when Peter denied Jesus. It seemed when Paul was accused, that no one stood up for him. Paul is saying, he did not hold that against them and hoped God would not charge them sorely for their fear, as well.

II Timothy 4:17 "Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and [that] all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."

When we have Jesus, we are never completely alone. The world may abandon us, but He will never leave us, or forsake us. Paul knew the presence of the Lord was with him. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." The Spirit of the living God within Paul strengthened him. Paul knew that his preaching had brought salvation to the Gentile. He was not sorry he had served the Lord. He had been delivered over and over from the power of Satan. That old devil walks through the earth seeking for those he can devour. He could not devour Paul.

II Timothy 4:18 "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve [me] unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Paul is not speaking of being saved from physical death here. He is saying, that God will be with him and not let him fall. He is looking forward to his heavenly rewards. He knows he will live in the kingdom of God. When he begins to think of the wonders of heaven, he burst out into praise. To God be the glory forever and ever.

II Timothy 4:19 "Salute Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus."

Priscilla is intended by Prisca here. Priscilla and Aquilla had been faithful to the Lord's work. Paul had lived with them when they were all tentmakers together. Undoubtedly, Onesiphorus had been martyred here. His household indicates that he is no longer alive.

II Timothy 4:20 "Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick."

Paul is telling Timothy where all of the fellow workers are, as if Timothy will be overseeing them after Paul's death. Notice, that the ministers of the Word, even in that day, were sometimes sick in their bodies.

II Timothy 4:21 "Do thy diligence to come before winter. Eubulus greeteth thee, and Pudens, and Linus, and Claudia, and all the brethren."

Paul undoubtedly was unaware of when the execution would take place. Winter storms would make it difficult to travel to Rome. Paul had experienced that on his first trip to Rome. These mentioned here, were Christians in Rome. They could have been, also, workers in the church there, since they are mentioned separate from the brethren.

II Timothy 4:22 "The Lord Jesus Christ [be] with thy spirit. Grace [be] with you. Amen."

Even in the final words of this letter, we can see the love that Paul had for Timothy. Paul did not want Timothy to get down in his spirit. His prayer was for the strength for Timothy. Amen - so be it.

2 Timothy 6 Questions

1. Who shall judge the quick and the dead?
2. When shall they be judged?
3. Who are the "quick"?
4. What does the word "therefore" show us about this Scripture?
5. What is "His kingdom"?
6. What did he tell Timothy to preach?
7. What other things did Paul tell Timothy to do pertaining to the ministry?
8. What is meant by "being instant in season and out of season" ?
9. Quote Matthew chapter 18 verse 15.
10. The time will come when they will not endure _____ .
11. They will heap to themselves teachers, having _____ .
12. What are some of the things sound doctrine teaches?
13. What is the message most church goers want to hear?
14. What are some of the things people tell you not to preach about, so you will not offend the members of the church?
15. The sermon of itching ears appeals to the _____ of _____ .
16. What are some of the things not many want to hear?
17. What do most church-goers want to hear?
18. Quote John chapter 16 verse 33.
19. They shall turn away their ears from the _____ .
20. What is it saying when it says "fables"?
21. In verse 5, Paul tells Timothy to the work of an _____ -.
22. Quote 2 Timothy chapter 4 verse 7.
23. What is laid up for Paul in heaven?
24. What is Jesus called in verse 8?
25. Why did Demas forsake Paul?
26. Only _____ is with me.
27. Who was the coppersmith that had done much evil to Paul?
28. Who stood with Paul?
29. Quote Philippians chapter 4 verse 13.
30. Who is Prisca in verse 19?

Paul wrote this letter to Titus about the year 63 A.D. Titus was a Gentile who had been saved under Paul's ministry. It seemed that Paul was very fond of Titus, as he was of Timothy. He thought of Titus as his son in the ministry, because Paul had taught Titus. Titus had gone on several journeys with Paul and even went to Rome with Paul.

Titus went to Jerusalem with Paul, and the Jewish Christians there wanted to circumcise Titus. Paul would not allow them to do this, because it would cause all of the Gentile Christians to be of less importance to God.

When there was trouble with a church and Paul could not go himself, he would send Titus. The very next best thing to being there himself, would be to send Titus, because Titus had been trained by Paul, and it was as if Paul were ministering.

This, like the book of Timothy, is a personal letter that Paul sent Titus to help him in his ministry.

Titus 1:1 "Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;"

We have discussed before that the word "apostle" could be ambassador. An ambassador does not bring his own message, but the message of the person he is representing. We can see from that one word, that Paul is bringing to the Gentile world the message of Jesus Christ. Paul, as much as anyone, was a servant of God. He had dedicated his life to the service of the Lord. The purpose of the message Paul was bringing, was to stir up faith in Jesus Christ in those elected of God to receive the Truth. Of course, God elected all mankind who will, to receive the Word of God. The Word of God teaches godliness.

Titus 1:2 "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"

The hope of every Christian is the resurrection to eternal life in Jesus. The plan of salvation was from before the world began. II Timothy 1:9 "Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began," This does not remove the free will of each individual to decide to be saved and follow Jesus. God's foreknowledge allowed Him to know who would be saved. That is how he knew and wrote the names in the book. This plan was not just the Father's, but God the Word's, and the Holy Spirit's, from the beginning. The Word of God was to take on the form of flesh, become Jesus, and save His people. He was the one to save us, since He was our Creator. Hebrews 6:18 "That by two immutable things, in which [it was] impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:"

Titus 1:3 "But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;"

"Manifested" means made real. Then we see that God chose to make His Word real by preaching. We are told over and over in the Scriptures, preach the Word. Paul was a mouth piece for God. That is exactly what Paul was called to do, when he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. I Corinthians 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:21 "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." "God our Saviour" is of course speaking of Jesus Christ.

Titus 1:4 "To Titus, [mine] own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, [and] peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour."

Titus had been saved by Paul's preaching, and that is why Paul speaks of him as his son in this Scripture. Some believe that Titus was saved about 14 years after Paul was saved on the road to Damascus. This, possibly, happened at Antioch. Paul was not married and had no natural sons. This blessing that he speaks on Titus is from Paul, and Jesus, and the Father. He adds Saviour to Jesus showing that He is what brings us not only salvation, but grace, mercy and peace.

Titus 1:5 'For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:"

Paul had every confidence in Titus. He knew Titus would do everything the way he would do it, if he were there. It seems that Paul had left Titus the task of establishing the churches in this area. Paul had so much faith in Titus, that he left it up to Titus to choose someone in each church to be the elder. An "elder" is the spiritual advisor of the church. It is the job of the elder to make sure that the church is kept spiritually sound in its doctrine. We will see in the next few verses, that Paul gave Titus some guidelines to use in choosing these leaders.

Titus 1:6 "If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly."

Blameless means that there is nothing he has done that the anyone in the community will blame him for. He does not even give the appearance of evil. His marriage is solid, he is not jumping from one wife to the other. His children are Christians, as well as he is. The children are not a problem to the community, as well.

Titus 1:7 "For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;"

The bishop is like the superintendent of the church, it means in general charge of the church. We might even call him chairman of the board today. It appears to me, the description of this person is showing a man who is completely sold out to the Lord. He is Christ-like. He is an easy going person who loves other people. He has his will under control at all times, because he does not take drugs or alcohol. He is not greedy for wealth.

Titus 1:8 "But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;"

Most men who truly love other people are hospitable. This describes a man who loves good, whether in man or in the good things of life. Sober is the reverse of riotous. This man is not living in sin. He is living in Jesus who has overcome sin, thus holy. Temperate means master of one's self. This is a perfect description of someone who has his flesh under the control of his spirit.

Titus 1:9 "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

The power of Christianity is in the Word of God {Jesus}. The faithful Word would be the true Word of God. Holding fast, would mean that he had stored the Word of God down deep in his heart. The only way to be an effective soul winner, is to have the Word of God totally imbedded into your own heart to the extent that when you open your mouth, the Word of God comes forth. "Gainsayers", are disputers. The Truth will convince the worst of the disputers, if it is brought forth faithfully long enough.

Titus 1:10 "For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:"

The problem with these people is that they had not left their Jewish teaching behind, when they came to Christ. Law and grace are like oil and water, they can not mix. The circumcision leaves no doubt that they are speaking of the Jews. The Jewish converts were the most difficult for Paul to get to conform to the teachings of Christianity.

Titus 1:11 "Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."

"Filthy lucre" is dirty money. At the time this was written many people sold all their worldly belongings and had things common. Perhaps, this is speaking of wanting to be in control of the wealth that was generated from those sales. They were bringing another message other than what Paul had brought, and were even getting whole families to break away to their false teaching. Most of this had to do, however, with conforming to the Jew's customs.

Titus 1:12 "One of themselves, [even] a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians [are] always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies."

They did not have a very high opinion of the members of the church. The Jews had always thought themselves better than the Gentiles, and it seemed they were bringing in a distinction here. It seems the Cretians had a reputation of being liars. "Evil beasts" means they were a cruel, brutal people. The "slow bellies" mean that they were gluttons.

Titus 1:13 "This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;"

Paul is saying, the accusations are true, but when they become a Christian, they must change. Titus must tell them of the new birth in Christ. They must bury that lying, brutal, glutton, and become a new creature in Christ. Titus has a hard job ahead, breaking customs of many years. They must totally change. They must be solidly planted in the faith in Jesus Christ. There must be such a change that the whole world can see.

Titus 1:14 "Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth."

The worst thing a person can do, is to listen to something, thinking it will not hurt them. You retain some of the things you intend not to believe. It is best not to listen at all. We discussed that the Jewish fables, spoken of here, are the things like circumcision. The continuing to sacrifice after Jesus made the one sacrifice for all time for everyone, is like saying His sacrifice was not sufficient. I believe God allowed the temple in Jerusalem to be destroyed in 70 A.D. to stop the people from continuing to sacrifice. The laws, commandments, and regulations were all fulfilled in Jesus Christ. It is almost blasphemy to continue with that, because it defames Jesus.

Titus 1:15 "Unto the pure all things [are] pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving [is] nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled."

Jesus [the Supreme Sacrifice] made all Christians free from sin. He abolished sin in our lives. Mark 7:15 "There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man." The Jews were caught up in formality of religion. They washed thoroughly before they ate, as if it were a practice of religion. The things you think are dirty are dirty. Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." It is the precious blood of Jesus Christ that clears the conscience of man. We can not do enough in ourself to be right with God. We must depend entirely on the shed blood of Jesus making us right in God's sight.

Titus 1:16 "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny [him], being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate."

You can say all day long that you are a Christian, but I will not believe you until I see Christ living in you. We see in the following Scripture a Truth about this very thing. I Peter 4:2 "That he no longer should live the rest of [his] time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." Not everyone who says he is a Christian is a Christian. The life we live shows the world, if we are truly living for Christ, or not. If we are practicing sin, we are of our father the devil. If we are living the Christian life with signs following, we are of our heavenly Father. Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Titus 1 Questions

1. When was the letter to Titus written {approximately}?
2. What was Paul's connection to the man Titus?
3. Why did Paul think of Titus as his son?
4. Was Titus ever in Rome with Paul?
5. What did the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem want to do to Titus, which Paul said no to?
6. Why did Paul send Titus to the troubled churches he could not go to himself?
7. Why did Paul write this letter to Titus?
8. What does Paul call himself in verse 1?
9. What is another thing "apostle" could be?
10. What does this word show us about Paul?
11. What is the hope of every Christian?
12. What had Paul dedicated his life to?
13. When had God promised eternal life?
14. Quote 2 Timothy chapter 1 verse 9.
15. How had He manifested His Word?
16. What does "manifested" mean?
17. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 18.
18. It pleased God that by the foolishness of _____ to save them that believe.
19. What was the blessing Paul spoke on Titus.
20. When was it believed that Titus was saved?
21. Where had Paul left Titus to work?
22. Why had he left him there?
23. Who was to decide who to ordain?
24. What is an "elder"?
25. What were some of the qualifications Titus was to judge by?
26. What are some of the qualifications of a bishop.
27. What was meant by faithful Word?
28. Who are "gainsayers"?
29. What one word, in verse 10, leaves no doubt this is speaking of Jews?
30. What does verse 11 say, is the reason they were doing this?
31. What is "filthy lucre"?
32. What reputation did the Cretians have?
33. What did Paul tell Titus to do about this?
34. In verse 14, Paul warned to not give heed to what?
35. Why does the author believe the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D.?
36. Unto the pure all things are _____.
37. Who was the Supreme Sacrifice?
38. What clears the conscience of mankind?
39. Quote 1 Peter chapter 4 verse 2.
40. Memorize and quote Galatians chapter 2 verse 20.

We will begin this lesson in Titus 2:1 "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:"

It is easy to see from this, that Paul is writing this letter to Titus to help him in deciding how to establish a doctrine for the churches he is starting. Speak, here, means Titus is to speak to the people as if he were Paul and establish the church on the doctrine Paul has written to him.

Titus 2:2 "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience."

This has jumped from the leaders of the church to the conduct of the members. It is very similar to that of the leaders. Faith, hope, and charity are mentioned many times as being a part of the Christian's character and attitude. This is not a passive mention of this in this verse. The verb "be" shows that the person who is to be these things have a choice in this matter. Older Christian men should have all of these characteristics.

Titus 2:3 "The aged women likewise, that [they be] in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;"

We see, in this, that the older women are to be an example of holiness in the church, at home and in the community. The teachers of good things can mean not only the Word of God, but could, also, teach by the type of holy upright life that they live before others. They should not be heavy drinkers. There is something special about the relationship the mother, or grandmother, has with her family. The standards she sets in her own life, usually become the standards of the whole family. This is the reason it is so important for her to live a holy life. Many prominent men in God's work were taught by their mothers. Timothy is a good Biblical example.

Titus 2:4 "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,"

Man builds a house, and woman makes the home. Man is the head of the house, but the mother is the heart. Someone said once that she was the neck that turns the head. I would not say that, but the woman seems to set the atmosphere for a happy, or a troubled, home. Generally speaking it is the mother who insists on prayers at meals and regular attendance in church for the family. If you did not love your husband, you would be not loving yourself, since you two are one. Women and men have their own special roles in the family. We would be much happier, if we would make Jesus Christ the center of our marriage, and then let Him direct us to our own special role in the family. It is a natural thing for a woman to love her husband and her children. Teach all of your family how to love by loving them first.

Titus 2:5 "[To be] discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

Whatever lifestyle we have, if we are Christians, we must be discreet {self-controlled}. Jesus is coming back for a chaste virgin to be His bride. This is speaking of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ {both male and

female}. A woman is the one who makes the home from the house the husband has provided. The 31st. chapter of Proverbs, beginning with the 10th verse, describes the woman who is the wife more precious than rubies. It speaks of women working outside of the home when it is necessary to help her husband. A woman and a man who are married must decide what are the particular needs of their own family and how to best attain that goal. We are one, so the decision to work out or not to work out should be of mutual agreement. Women should have great respect for their own husbands, and do whatever she can to please him, as long as it is morally right to do what he wishes. She is to be his helpmeet in the truest sense of the word. Any Christian, male or female, who does not live the things they have been taught of God, in a sense blasphemes God, because it is as if he is saying God's Word is untrue.

Titus 2:6 "Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded."

Titus 2:7 "In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine [shewing] uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,"

Temptations, or lusts of the flesh, are greater for young men than for old men. This is probably why Paul separated them out for instructions. Paul is stressing to Titus, the importance of a strong belief in the teachings of God which will guide them into living a life that is a pattern for others to live by. The energy of the young man is great at this point, but his work must reveal his belief in God. His walk must match up with the faith he professes. Good works show the world that you are living for God. The young man must stay faithful to God to not be influenced with the sin of the world. Paul says for Titus to get the young men involved in the work. Let their works match their doctrines, keep them busy doing good things.

Titus 2:8 "Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."

The speech of the man reveals what is in his heart. Pure words come from a pure heart, and there is no condemnation for that. The doctrine of him must be sound, and his speech must reveal the doctrine. Those who use bad language are ashamed around those who use clean wholesome language.

Titus 2:9 "[Exhort] servants to be obedient unto their own masters, [and] to please [them] well in all [things]; not answering again;"

In our modern times we would be speaking of those laborers who are working for the boss. Even the fact that you do your job well without complaining, is a witness to the Christ that lives in you. When you work for anyone, you should do it as unto the Lord, and then it will be done right with no complaining. The fact that you don't complain will witness to your boss. Who knows, you might be the servant that wins the boss to the Lord.

Titus 2:10 "Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."

"Purloining" has to do with embezzling, or holding back. This is speaking of someone who is not honest with his boss. This would be like taking the tools that belong to the boss home and just not bringing them back. That would be a very bad witness. You can even embezzle from your boss without taking anything material. The fact that you do not work a full 8 hours for an 8 hour work day, is stealing from him. That is his time. He

bought it when he hired you. Give a full day's work for a full day's pay, and you will be witnessing for Christ in the doing. "Adorn" means to put on. Notice, if you are a good employee, you may cause your boss to put on the doctrine of God our Saviour. You may be the reason he is saved.

Titus 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"

By grace are ye saved. We do not work to get salvation. We may, however, work because we have it. Salvation by grace is offered to all mankind. It comes before us sometime in our life. We accept it, or reject it.

Titus 2:12 "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"

The leader of the church must teach the congregation the proper way to conduct holy lives. It is the decision of each individual to live the good life. The teacher can tell us what is right, but it is up to us to act upon that teaching. I have said this over and over, but to remain a Christian in the truest sense, we must crucify the flesh and the lust of the flesh, and allow the spirit to rule. The flesh of man is the enemy of his spirit. There is a battle taking place continually. The spirit must win the will of man for him to be a true Christian. It is spoken of as death of the flesh and life in the spirit. Galatians 5:16 "[This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"

The blessed hope is of the resurrection to eternal life. This could be, also, speaking of the looking forward to the coming of Christ. He is coming for those who are looking for Him. The "appearing of the Lord Jesus" will be when He comes to take His children home. You can read a great deal about this in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4.

Titus 2:14 "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

The word "redeem" means to release by payment of a ransom. We see that the ransom paid was the precious blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He gave Himself {became our substitute} on the cross of Calvary. Sin, or iniquity, died on the cross. Jesus took our sin upon His body, and sin died on the cross. He purified us with His precious blood. He clothed us with His righteousness. The peculiar people, Christians, became the property of the Lord Jesus He bought us with His blood. He paid the price for us to be adopted into the family of God. The signs that follow God's people are good works. We are fruit bearers. We produce other members for God's family through our testimony and our good works. It is not an obligation to do good works, but a privilege.

Titus 2:15 "These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."

Paul is expressing to Titus the warning to not let anyone discourage him, by questioning his authority. Paul, in a sense, is saying, preach the

gospel in all Truth, and they will have to respect you. Titus must live what he preaches to win the respect of the hearers.

Titus 2 Questions

1. Speak thou the things which become _____.
2. The aged men be _____, _____, _____ in _____, in _____, and in _____.
3. Is this speaking of the leaders of the church, or whom?
4. What 3 things are spoken of many times as being The Christian's character and attitude?
5. What are the aged women to be like?
6. What two ways could she teach?
7. Who usually set the standards for the family?
8. What 3 things are the older women to teach the younger women?
9. Man builds a _____, and woman makes the _____.
10. Man is the head, but woman is the _____.
11. What is the best way to teach your family how to love?
12. What chapter of Proverbs describes a wife who is more precious than rubies?
13. Who must decide what each family should do?
14. Who really blasphemes God?
15. Describe what the young men should be like.
16. Paul tells Titus to get the young men involved in _____.
17. What does the speech of a man reveal?
18. Those who use bad language are _____ around those who do not.
19. Verse 9 is speaking of servants, who could we relate that to in our society?
20. What is "purloining"?
21. What would it mean to "adorn" the doctrine of God?
22. What brings salvation to mankind?
23. Whose decision is it to live holy?
24. To remain a Christian in the truest sense, we must do what?
25. Quote Galatians chapter 5 verse 16.
26. What is the blessed hope?
27. When is the glorious "appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"?
28. What does "redeem" mean?
29. What was the ransom that was paid?
30. He gave Himself {became our _____}.
31. He clothed us with His _____.
32. What is Paul expressing to Titus in verse 15?

We will begin this lesson in Titus 3:1 "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,"

We have discussed before how God makes a person to be king, or president, or in fact, governors, or lesser offices, for His purpose. To go against the ruling government, would be saying that you cannot trust God's judgement. The way to go up against them, is at the voting stand. The only time we should go against the government is, if what they ask you to do is against your belief in God. It is best to keep the laws of the land and live peaceable lives.

Titus 3:2 "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, [but] gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men."

We should not even speak evil against our enemy. We are not to create trouble for ourselves, or anyone else. We are to be peacemakers. The meekness, above, is really speaking of being humble. The worldly man has a tendency to talk about others, thinking it will make him look better, but Christians should do the opposite and build others up.

Titus 3:3 "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, [and] hating one another."

This is a perfect description of all of us, before we came to Jesus. This is the way of the world, or the way of the flesh. Selfish, unsaved people do all of the things above, because they are listening to the lust of their flesh. Until we receive the pattern of the perfect love of Jesus, we do not know how to love. I love the answer Jesus gave when the disciples asked Him what were the most important commandments. The following is the answer He gave them. Mark 12:30 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment." Mark 12:31 "And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." Hate is of the world, love is of God.

Titus 3:4 "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,"

A companion Scripture to this is John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." While we were yet in sin, Christ gave Himself to save us. I Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." The kindness and love of God our Saviour toward men, is caught up in one word, grace. "Grace" is unmerited favour from God to man. Ephesians 2:4 "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us," Ephesians 2:5 "Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"

Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Our own righteousness is but filthy rags. We could work forever and the work would not make us righteous. We are righteous in God's sight, because we are dressed in white robes washed in the blood of the Lamb of God. We have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. We are acceptable to God, because Jesus made us acceptable, not by any work we do. Revelation 7:13 "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?" Revelation 7:14 "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Another type of washing that this could mean, is the washing of regeneration mentioned in the following Scripture. Ephesians 5:26 "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word," This could be at water baptism, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost could be at the baptism of fire of the Holy Ghost.

Titus 3:6 "Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;"

We, Christians, are born again in Jesus Christ. We die to the flesh, and are quickened in our spirit by the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that Jesus promised the Comforter would come. The Comforter did come. He is the Holy Ghost. He empowers us in our spirit to minister.

Titus 3:7 "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Because He shed His grace on us, We are justified {just as if we had never sinned}. Galatians 3:29 "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." I Peter 3:7 "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with [them] according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." All who are justified by Jesus will inherit life eternal and be sons of God. I John 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

Titus 3:8 "[This is] a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men."

This is just simply saying, we must walk in the salvation we have received of God. Paul is telling Titus to keep reminding his people to be working, until Jesus comes. This is not only profitable to God but to man, as well.

Titus 3:9 "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."

It seemed the Jewish Christians kept bringing up questions about keeping the law of Moses. Paul tells Titus not to even get into a discussion with them on these matters. It would just cause confusion and strife. They would not accomplish anything, except they would divide the people. Jesus warned over and over about studying genealogies. This is as if one class of people are better than the other. Look what John the Baptist had to say about genealogies in the next verse. Matthew 3:9 "And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to [our] father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."

Titus 3:10 "A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;"

A "heretic" is someone who does not accept the teachings of the church and decides to make up his own doctrine. "Admonition" means rebuke, or warning. This means, then, if you have warned him more than once, then reject him.

Titus 3:11 "Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."

The word translated "subverted" could have meant perverted. It seems this person has gone so far that it is not probable he will change. Since he will not repent and change, he has condemned himself.

Titus 3:12 "When I shall send Artemas unto thee, or Tychicus, be diligent to come unto me to Nicopolis: for I have determined there to winter."

It seems after Titus finished setting up the church at Crete, Paul wanted him to return to him. Paul would send Artemus to this church at Crete and Tychicus to Ephesus to minister in the church. It seems Paul was concerned that they might not get the proper message in their sermons, so he sent someone he had trained. This Nicopolis would have been on the way to Rome.

Titus 3:13 "Bring Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey diligently, that nothing be wanting unto them."

Apollos was well known, he is the same Apollos that Priscilla and Aquilla had ministered to. Paul might need a lawyer when he got to Rome, but I hardly doubt that is why this is mentioned here.

Titus 3:14 "And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful."

Ours, here, is speaking of the members of the church at Crete. The good works spoken of, probably, is speaking of taking up an offering for the travelers. They should be willing to help the missionaries who came by their church. The main reason a person should give, besides the necessity, is what it will do for their own feelings knowing they have been of help in the ministry. They can participate in the missionary endeavor, even though they do not go on the trip. The workers, who do make the trip, are just one part of the work that it takes to get them there. This way they could feel a part of the work, too.

Titus 3:15 "All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace [be] with you all. Amen."

This is a typical salutation from Paul. He includes all who are with him. Paul knows and feels the love of the people in the churches he had so much to do with. He knows their love stems from the fact that directly, or indirectly, he had brought them the message of faith in Jesus Christ.

Titus 3 Questions

1. Put them in mind to be subject to _____ and _____.
2. Why does a certain person become an office holder?
3. How can you go against the office holder, and still be within God's teaching?
4. When is the only time you should not obey the ruler?
5. Speak evil of no _____.
6. Christians are to be _____.
7. What does verse 3 say, we were before we were saved?
8. Why do people commit sin?
9. Quote Mark chapter 12 verses 30 and 31.
10. What is a companion Scripture to Titus chapter 3 verse 4?
11. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 4 verse 10.
12. What is one word that describes God's love and kindness?
13. Quote Ephesians chapter 2 verses 4 and 5.
14. He saved us not by our works of righteousness, but according to what?
15. What makes us righteous in God's sight?
16. Why do the Christians have on white robes in heaven?
17. Quote Ephesians chapter 5 verse 26.
18. What did He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ?
19. We are justified by His _____.
20. What does "justified" mean?
21. What does 1 Peter chapter 3 verse 7 tell us about husbands and wives?
22. Quote 1 John chapter 3 verse 1.
23. Christians should maintain good _____.
24. What did Paul tell them to avoid?
25. What question did the Jewish Christians keep bringing up?
26. What did John the Baptist have to say about genealogies?
27. What is a "heretic"?
28. "Admonition" means what?
29. What is another word for "subverted"?
30. Who did Paul send to relieve Titus at Crete?

The letter from Paul to Philemon was of a very personal nature. The letter was probably written while Paul was in Rome.

We know from this letter, that Philemon was probably a man who had some wealth. At least he had a nice home, and it was believed it was large enough that the church had been held in his home.

Philemon had obviously been saved under Paul's ministry. He felt that he was indebted to Paul. It appears that Onesimus had been Philemon's servant and had run away.

We will now begin in Philemon 1:1 "Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy [our] brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,"

Philemon was a Greek Christian. He was thought to be from Colosse. Paul calls himself, prisoner of Jesus, perhaps to remind Philemon that he is a prisoner of Jesus, as well. He is about to make a plea for a servant of Philemon's. We are all a prisoner of someone. Perhaps, this is the point Paul is making in the opening of this very personal letter to his friend. Paul calls him fellowlabourer, which means that Philemon is a minister, as well.

Philemon 1:2 "And to [our] beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:"

This verse leaves no doubt that the church was meeting in Philemon's house. Apphia was either Philemon's wife, or sister, who was living in the house with Philemon. Archippus denotes service of some kind. Perhaps, the soldiering was in the warfare that all Christians are involved in. We are soldiers of the cross. This would mean, then, that Archippus was someone who was a Christian, and possibly, was associated with the church there.

Philemon 1:3 "Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

This is a typical greeting from Paul. Grace, mercy, and peace are all gifts from God to the believer.

Philemon 1:4 "I thank my God, making mention of thee always in my prayers,"

Paul prayed for the people who were saved under his ministry, and for the churches he had started regularly.

Philemon 1:5 "Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;"

Philemon was spoken of highly by the other believers. It seems that he was a very unselfish man, in the fact that the church met in his home. When you love the believers, you are loving the Lord. Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it unto me, was His statement.

Philemon 1:6 "That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."

If I understand this correctly, this is the world looking toward Philemon and seeing Christ Jesus in the things Philemon does. Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." It appears the life Philemon lived, was communicating to the world the love that Philemon had for Christ Jesus. It, also, means that Philemon was not taking the credit for the good things he did, but was giving the Lord Jesus all of the credit for his life.

Philemon 1:7 "For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother."

It seems that Philemon was a wealthy man, and had used that wealth to help the other workers for Christ. Paul is filled with joy, when he hears of the nice things Philemon is doing for the other saints who are in need. It seems he is a very generous man when it comes to other's needs. Paul speaks to Philemon as a brother. You remember, he spoke of Titus and Timothy as his sons. Philemon could have been older, or he could have been more mature.

Philemon 1:8 "Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,"

He is saying, knowing that you are a caring man, then I will ask you boldly as an apostle of Christ to do something that is not the usual thing to do.

Philemon 1:9 "Yet for love's sake I rather beseech [thee], being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ."

Paul reminds him that he loves him, and that he is speaking to him from prison himself. Paul is feeling old at this point. He loves both men and feels that he can be a peacemaker. Paul has suffered much for the gospel and Philemon had great respect for him.

Philemon 1:10 "I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:"

Onesimus was not Paul's son in the flesh. It seems that Onesimus had been saved while Paul was in prison. This Onesimus, of course, was the servant, or slave, belonging to Philemon. He had run away, and we know that Philemon has to be a little disturbed by that. Philemon would probably not have listened to this from anyone else, but Paul.

Philemon 1:11 "Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:"

Notice, that Paul was not taking sides with Onesimus. In fact, he says what Onesimus did was wrong. Onesimus had become a Christian since he left Philemon's house. Paul wants Philemon to realize the value of a soul won to Christ.

Philemon 1:12 "Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:"

Paul is going to send Onesimus back to Philemon, but not in bonds. He is sending him back as a brother in Christ. Paul reminds Philemon, again, that Onesimus has been saved.

Philemon 1:13 "Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:"

Paul was saying to Philemon, that he could not be with him so, Onesimus could have stayed and ministered to Paul in the place of Philemon.

Philemon 1:14 "But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly."

Paul sent him back to Philemon to give him the opportunity to decide the fate of Onesimus himself. If Onesimus came back to minister to Paul, it would be at the blessings of Philemon.

Philemon 1:15 "For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;"

Paul is saying, that perhaps, it was God's will for Onesimus to leave. He had been unsaved when he left and now was a believer. Now he would be Philemon's Christian brother forever.

Philemon 1:16 "Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?"

Perhaps, Onesimus had left with anger in his heart toward Philemon. Now the forgiveness from Onesimus to Philemon would be obvious. He would not have been willing to go back, if there had not been a change in Onesimus. Paul asks Philemon to receive Onesimus back not as a servant, but as a Christian brother. It seems he was very dear to Paul.

Philemon 1:17 "If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as myself."

Paul is really asking a favor of Philemon here. Paul is saying, if you love me, think of him as my friend, instead of your servant.

Philemon 1:18 "If he hath wronged thee, or oweth [thee] ought, put that on mine account;"

Paul does not go into the offence that Onesimus had committed. Since he was like a slave to Philemon, just the fact that he ran off would have been a loss to Philemon. It appears, however, that he had possibly stolen something. We must remember that Onesimus was not a Christian when this happened. Whatever the offence was, Paul says to put it to his account.

Philemon 1:19 "I Paul have written [it] with mine own hand, I will repay [it]: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides."

Paul reminds Philemon that he would have died and gone to hell, if Paul had not ministered to him. He, in that sense, owes his life to Paul. This is a little sharp to say, but we do not know the details.

Philemon 1:20 "Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord."

Paul, in so many words, is saying don't disappoint me. I would be very happy, if you forgive Onesimus.

Philemon 1:21 "Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say."

Paul is mentioning the fact of his authority over Philemon in this sentence. He is sure that Philemon will do just as he says, because of Paul's authority over the Christians.

Philemon 1:22 "But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you."

Paul stays in Philemon's house, when he is in the area it seems. Paul has confidence that he will return there to minister. Paul wants to come back here, and prays that he will be able to.

Philemon 1:23 "There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;"

Epaphrus was mentioned in the book of Collosians. It seems that Paul was in prison with him. Nero was jailing as many Christians as he could locate.

Philemon 1:24 "Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers."

Marcus was the same person as Mark who had abandoned Paul at one time. Aristarchus had travelled to Rome with Paul. Demas was spoken of by Paul in another letter as having left the faith. Lucas, has to be Luke the Physician who stayed with Paul in Rome.

Philemon 1:25 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with your spirit. Amen."

Grace means a great deal in this letter, since that is what Paul is asking Philemon to have for Onesimus.

Philemon 1 Questions

1. What kind of letter did Paul write to Philemon?
2. Where was Paul when he wrote the letter?
3. Where was the church held?
4. What was the servant of Philemon's name?
5. What did Paul call himself in verse 1?
6. What nationality was Philemon?
7. What did Paul call Philemon?
8. What point is Paul making, when he called himself prisoner?
9. How do we know they had church in Philemon's house?
10. Who was Apphia?
11. What was the blessing Paul spoke?
12. What good things had Paul heard about Philemon?
13. Quote Matthew chapter 5 verse 16.
14. Who did Philemon give all the credit to?
15. What was Philemon using his wealth for?
16. Why did Paul speak of Philemon as brother, and Timothy and Titus as son, when they were all saved by Paul's preaching?
17. Why does Paul mention his age here?
18. Why did Paul call Onesimus his son?
19. When had Onesimus been saved?
20. Was Paul taking Onesimus' side?
21. Why did Paul not keep Onesimus with him to minister to him?
22. What did Paul say was probably God's will?
23. Would Onesimus still be Philemon's servant?
24. Paul asked Philemon to receive him as whom?
25. In verse 19, Paul reminds Philemon of what?
26. What, in verse 21, shows Paul's authority?
27. Where will Paul stay in this area?
28. Who was Paul's fellowprisoner?
29. Who were named as Paul's fellowlabourers?

*Thank you for taking the time to study these lessons.
I pray that something in this study has blessed you.*

Your friend in Jesus,

Louise

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