

Dear FBC family,

Over the last couple of years we have spent a great deal of time removing false modern/pagan concepts that so infect all of our thinking about God, reality, and His Word. It is no wonder that even doctrinal believers cannot stay in fellowship with God for most of *any* day. After a couple of more FBC Bible classes on the will, we are going to examine in great depth another major problem with modern thinking, that is “the emotions.” Our whole modern concept of emotions is perverted, both by those who downplay them as well as those who exalt them. As I have noted, “emotions” is not a biblical word or concept. It will take a while to explain just how the word came into existence about 200 years ago and the terrible ramifications on the Christian spiritual life.

Since it is going to take some time to nail these things down, I have decided to provide a study of Paul’s New Testament epistles through this internet medium on most days that we do not have Bible class. The goal is to get you personally connected with God’s Word. All of our philosophical studies and all that I do is to ultimately ground us in reality so we can read and understand the Bible for ourselves and reap the spiritual benefits of knowing God more personally.

What I have decided to do is to take us on a journey through Paul’s epistles, chapter by chapter. We are going to go through the books chronologically. We simply cannot wait until we understand all the things we are developing at FBC before we get back to verse by verse studies. Through this chronological study, we will see the progression of Paul’s teaching and many spiritual life lessons. Most importantly, you will see God more directly.

Today we start with 1 Thessalonians 1, Paul’s earliest epistle. The assignment is for you to read the ten verses of 1 Thessalonians 1 without any commentary or help from anyone else. Just read the ten verses about 2-4 times, or more. I want you to think about this message from God through Paul to all Christians. I want you to really think about these verses, to cogitate on them for a while. Tomorrow, I will provide some details on the background of this epistle. For now, I just want you to read the first chapter of Thessalonians with a fresh personal approach without looking at any study notes, not even Ryrie’s. Just read and meditate on God’s message *for yourself*.

With love and respect for the FBC family,

Pastor Don