

Dear FBC family,

It is very important for every believer to be in the Word of God daily. I mean studying it for yourself, not just listening to someone else teach you. It is the personal interaction with the Word of God that has the power to change a believer's life like nothing else.

With this in mind, I have decided to provide guidance in a personal Bible study through the wonderful epistles of Paul.

Today, I would like for you to read 1 Thessalonians 1, yes, again, and make your own chapter title. A chapter title is a short sentence on the content of a chapter. This will force you to capture the content in a sentence and will serve as a way for you to be able to mentally think through Paul's epistles as we go through the various epistles chronologically.

There are countless applications in 1 Thessalonians 1, here are a few to reflection:

1. Why was Paul filled with so much joy and thanksgiving regarding the Thessalonian believers (2-3)? What does this say about any healthy believer's attitude toward other believers who are living and loving the Word of God?
2. How is it that the Thessalonian believers were filled with so much joy *in the midst of suffering?* (6, 10).
3. What must fundamentally change in a person for them to change from worshipping idols to worshipping God? The amount of doctrine in mind or the proper appetite of the will? Remember, this is Paul's first letter. These believers did not have any of Paul's great epistles like Romans to ponder.
4. What does the fact that both Paul and the Thessalonians were more focused on Christ (3) and His Kingdom (10) than the details/problems of life tell us about the condition of modern Christianity, and maybe yourself? Consider just how unchristian it is not to live for the next life—and how very pagan to doubt it.
5. What is Paul *most* interested in? Thessalonian's personal problems or their spiritual lives?

In 'Ehyeh,

Pastor Don