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<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

Personal Bible Study 07 – 1 Thessalonians 1-2

In his introduction to the *Ryrie Study Bible*, Dr. Charles Ryrie commented: “*The Bible is the greatest of all books; to study it is the noblest of all pursuits; to understand it, the highest of all goals.* It is my aim to guide you through a chronological study of Paul’s epistles. While there are a few places along the way where the original languages can trip up a believer, making the message more like a “sealed” book (Dan. 8:26), than something that is clear and perspicuous, most of the Word of God can be understood from the English. When concepts come up where the original languages can help bring clarity and depth, I will point them out and provide you with the necessary resources. However, it is imperative that every believer become biblically literate in a very personal way, especially in the Pauline epistles, which are filled with so many critical doctrines on the spiritual life for the church age believer. The focus of this study is to get you interacting personally with the Word of God so *you can personally own it, and reap the indescribable benefits.*

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 1-2 again. It takes about 4 minutes.
2. More background to 1 Thessalonians, which will help you understand what Paul has in mind and his tone when he writes this letter.
 - a. Read Acts 16:11-12 –These verses describe Paul’s activity *prior to* going to Thessalonica. This is Paul’s second missionary journey. For map and some background information, isagogics, see http://www.welcometohosanna.com/PAULS_MISSIONARY_JOURNEYS/2mission_4.html.
 - b. Read Acts 17:1-10. This covers Paul’s time *in* Thessalonica.
 - Acts 17:2-3: What was Paul doing in Thessalonica, for how long, and where was Paul doing it?
 - Acts 17:4: What were some positive results of this ministry?
 - Acts 17:5-10: What were some negative results in Acts 17:5-10?
 - Note how teaching of the Word of God always divides man into those who oppose the preaching and teaching while others love and embrace it. We see the same thing in the previous chapter of Acts in Philippi.

- Note that in Acts 17:10, he is forced to leave Thessalonica.
 - Read Acts 18:1, 5. It was in this city of Corinth that Paul wrote 1 Thess. Note the connection between the persons in Acts 18:5 and 1 Thess 1:1.
 - It was because Paul feared for the spiritual and physical health of the Thessalonians—from whose city he was ran out of—that he wrote the letter of Thessalonians, which included commendation, vindication, admonition, and additional Bible doctrine.
3. 1 Thessalonians 1-2. Note the tone in the letter both with respect to his love for these believers, who so loved the Word of God, and also his *repeated defense* of his own integrity (2:1-12). Recall in Acts 17:7 that Paul was accused by the hostile and jealous Jews of treason. He was also aware that the hostility of the negative Jews (Acts 17:5-10) would transfer to the newly planted church, which was a great cause of concern. It is the same story generation after generation, Satan instigates attack anyone who is teaching Truth and those who are faithful to his teaching of the Truth.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Don