

letters to Thessalonica

#3, the word of God, I Thess 2:7-20

In our last lesson (question [1.]), we saw that the new Thessalonian converts were composed of Jews, Gentiles and “a number of the leading women”. Now that they were in Christ, they all had one God as well as His one Holy Spirit. They were also all members of the one body of Christ.

This being so, their “outer man” was still of Adam. We learn from Romans 14 through 15:13, that, if not careful, there could be some difficulties with believers accepting one another.

This lesson opens with the team teaching the new believers.

[1.] Read v:7-12. These verses describe how Paul, Silas and Timothy actually worked with the brethren at Thessalonica. They also contain a picture of a very familiar task in a home. From the list below, choose the best description of the picture.

- a) Playing a computer game.
- b) Firing off fire crackers on the 4th of July.
- c) Parents laboring with their children.
- d) Currycombing a Yak.
- e) none of the above.

[2.] v:7, as a nursing mother, We all started here. Review I Corinthians 3:1-2 and jot down what you feel was “the milk of the word” Paul gave to the new converts.

[3.] v:7 again, her own children, This is a description but, in what way were these new believers really Paul’s own children?

7 But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.

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8 Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

9 For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

10 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers:

[4.] v:8, so fond an affection for you, **With this phrase, Paul is unusually complimentary of the new believers. Take a shot! What was it that probably made them so attractive to him?**

[5.] v:9, for you recall, **When children witness how hard and long their parents work to provide for them, it helps them face reality in their later life. How would the team's labor help the new converts in their own future ministry?**

[6.] v:9 again, our labor and hardship, **From the list below, choose that which you feel this verse means.**

- a) The team worked at jobs so that they didn't need to take anything from the new believers.
- b) It's a figure of speech meaning, the team worked long hours in preaching and teaching.
- c) The team was financially able to work with the new believers and not have to work.

[7.] v:10, devoutly . . . uprightly . . . blamelessly we behaved, **Suppose you went on a short mission trip. So that your effort would not be called into question, list some things you would avoid and why you would avoid them.**

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11 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,

12 so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.

14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews,

[8.] v:11, each one of you, **Sounds trivial but, what might be the result if the new believers sensed that the team had their favorites?**

[9.] v:12, manner worthy of . . . God, **Why would you feel that it is important to God for all of His children to walk worthy of Him?**

[10.] v:13, when you received the word, **Receiving Paul's message, as the word of God, caused another action in the brethren. What was the action?**

[11.] v:13 again, not *as* the word of men, **Give some reasons why the word of men will fail in the long run?**

[12.] v:14, imitators, **This verse says that the church in Thessalonica was an imitator of what other churches?**

[13.] v:14 again, **What was the same about both of them?**

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15 who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out. They are not pleasing to God, but hostile to all men, 16 hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost.

17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while – in person, not in spirit – were all the more eager with great desire to see your face.

18 For we wanted to come to you – I, Paul, more than once – and yet Satan hindered us.

19 For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming? 20 For you are our glory and joy.

[14.] v:15-16, Make a list of the indictments against the persecutors of the other churches.

[15.] v:16, What penalty was waiting for these persecutors?

[16.] v:17, – in person, not in spirit – This is an interesting phrase that describes Paul being taken away from the Thessalonians. What does it mean?

[17.] v:18, *yet* Satan hindered us. List some different ways that Satan could go about doing this.

[18.] v:19-20, our hope or joy or crown, What was the goal of all Paul's labors?

[19.] What is your main purpose for laboring in your congregation?

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NOTES