

A Review of 1st Thessalonians

Chapters 1 through 5

How To Live in Preparation of The Rapture

Chapter 1: Thanks to God

- 1 **Paul and Silvanus and Timothy,**
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. (Grace is the only way we can receive anything from God. As we read through 1 Thessalonians note how much is said of the first person of the Trinity, God the Father)
- 2 **We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers;** (prayers are addressed to God the Father)
- 3 **constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love** (here is the guide in understanding James) **and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,**
- 4 **knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;** (knowledge of Bible doctrine is one of the greatest of Christian virtues)
- 5 **for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and (even) in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind**

of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

6 **You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit,**

7 **so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.**

8 **For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.**

9 **For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,**

10 **and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead,** (doctrine of the Resurrection of JESUS CHRIST) ***that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.*** (JESUS *who draws us to Himself out from the wrath to come* that is The Tribulation)

Chapter 2: While waiting for *The Rapture*

1 **For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain,**

2 **but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.**

- 3 **For our exhortation does not *come* from error or impurity or by way of deceit**
- 4 **but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.**
- 5 **For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed—God is witness—**
- 6 **nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, even though as apostles of Christ we might have asserted our authority.**
- 7 **But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children.**
- 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;**

- 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,**
- 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?** (Second reference to *The Rapture*)
- 20 **For you are our glory and joy.**

Chapter 3: Getting ready for *The Rapture*: Love as JESUS CHRIST loves

- 1 **Therefore when we could endure it no longer, we thought it best to be left behind at Athens alone,**
- 2 **and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,**
- 3 **and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's fellow worker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you as to your faith,**
- 4 **For indeed when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know.**

- 5 **For this reason, when I could endure *it* no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be in vain.**
- 6 **But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also long to see you,**
- 7 **for this reason, brethren, in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith;**
- 8 **for now we *really* live, if you stand firm in the Lord.**
- 9 **For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account,**
- 10 **as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?**
- 11 **Now may our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord direct our way to you;**
- 12 **and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you;**

- 13 **so that He may establish your hearts without blame in holiness (Justification) **before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.** (Second Advent)**

Chapter 4:

Sanctified for *The Rapture*

- 1 **Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.**
- 2 **For you know what commandments we gave you by *the authority of the Lord Jesus*.**
- 3 **For this is the will of God, your sanctification;** (experiential sanctification in contrast to but parallel with positional or eternal or ultimate sanctification) ***that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;*** (any sexual sin)
- 4 **that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,** (walk in a manner pleasing to God)
- 5 **not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;**

- 6 ***and that no man transgress*** (go beyond what is right, example: it is right to charge interest, but not go beyond what is acceptable) ***and defraud*** (take advantage of another believer) ***his brother in the matter*** (relationships in life, business--social or personal: it is right to charge rent but not exorbitant) ***because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you.***
- 7 ***For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.***
- 8 ***So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.***
- 9 ***Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;***
(as JESUS CHRIST loves you)
- 10 ***for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,***
- 11 ***and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business*** (no gossip, judging, slandering, biting One Another) ***and work with your hands, just as we commanded you,***
- 12 ***so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.***

The Rapture **OR** **Being Brought Together in CHRIST**

- 13 **But we do not want you to be uninformed**, (one of the great problems of many Christians—being uninformed for not going to a local church where the truth is taught) **brethren, about those who are asleep**, (body sleeps in death, soul never sleeps) **so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.** (Unbelievers)
- 14 **For if** (since) **we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.**
- 15 **For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, (*Rapture*) will not precede** (in resurrection) **those who have fallen asleep.** (Died before us)
- 16 **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.** (Resurrection)
- 17 **Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together** (another word for *Rapture*—caught up together) **with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.**

18 **Therefore comfort one another with these words**

Chapter 5:

The Day of the Lord

1 **Now as to the times and the epochs,** (dispensations) **brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.**

2 **For you yourselves know full well** (refers to quality and degree of their knowledge) **that the day of the Lord will come** (The phrase “Day of the Lord” occurs throughout the Old Testament and includes: 7 years of Tribulation, 2nd Advent of Jesus Christ and the Millennial reign of JESUS CHRIST right up to the Great White Throne Judgement) **just like a thief in the night** (warning to all unbelievers)

The next several verses contain METAPHORS and IDIOMS, and can be most confusing and has led to many false teachings, but they deal with being prepared—for the DAY OF THE LORD WILL COME!

3 **While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.**

- 4 **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;** (you are not an unbeliever)
- 5 **for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;** (All believers are in the light of CHRIST)
- 6 **so then** (based on who we are, it is so important that we know who we are in CHRIST) **let us not sleep** (this idiom is used here referring to how we ought to live every day in anticipation of Meeting the Lord in the Air; not sleep here is a reference to living our lives looking forward to meeting the Lord in the air) **as others do,** (other believers; who live their lives in light of time and not in reference to eternity—they are so caught up in the temporal) **but** (in contrast) **let us be alert** (spiritually;) **and sober.** (Stability of mind by growth in the Word of God. Walking to please God)
- 7 **For** (introduces explanation of verse 6) **those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.** (As sleep is characteristic of night, so believers not in spiritual awareness are viewed as sleeping or drunk, not alert in their spiritual lives, not spiritually aware of all that is going on around them: in their spiritual lives, in their family, marriage, church, etc.)

Verse 8 Paul now uses armor metaphors

- 8 **But** (introduces contrast between believers and unbelievers) **since we are of *the day***, (not the Day of the Lord but this refers to the time of the incarnation of the Son of God) **let us be sober**, (inner spiritual stability) **having put** (getting dressed for spiritual warfare) **on the breastplate** (a vital piece of armor covering and protecting the chest or the heart area) **of faith** (in the Holy Spirit) **and love**, (toward One Another) **and as a helmet**, (another vital piece of armor protecting the head) **the hope** (confidence) **of salvation**. (Confidence of receiving a resurrected body at the Resurrection at *The Rapture* of the church.)
- 9 **For** (introduces the reason why we should remain spiritually alert and put on the armor of spiritual warfare.) **God** (God the Father) **has not destined us for wrath**, (wrath of The Tribulation) **but for obtaining salvation/deliverance through our Lord Jesus Christ**, (*Rapture*)
- 10 **who died for us**, (cross work of JESUS CHRIST) **so that whether we are awake** (physically alive) **or asleep**, (physically dead, when *The Rapture* comes) **we will live together with Him**. (for all eternity)
- 11 **Therefore** (based on all the foregoing, here is how we are to live with One Another) **encourage one another and build up one another**, (not judging, biting, competing or ignoring One Another; we are to encourage and strengthened the faith of One Another, strengthen the doctrinal understanding) **just as you also are doing**.

- 12 **But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those** (The NASV margin *know* It means to recognize the value of the teacher of the Word of God) **who diligently labor** (to the point of fatigue) **among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,** (The Pastor Teacher who studies and teaches the Word of God... all areas of the Word of God)
- 13 **and that you** (believers in the assembly) **esteem them** (Pastor Teacher) **very highly in love** (Spiritual Love) **because of their work.** (study and teaching the Word of God) **Live in peace with one another.** (Not trying to out do One Another or competing with One Another, but live in peace, a quiet life that everyone may grow in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST)
- 14 **We urge you, brethren,** <1> **admonish** (put sound thinking in their souls) **the unruly,** <2> **encourage the fainthearted,** (those who have difficult time in living Spirit Filled Life) <3> **help the weak,** (all believers in an assembly are in the same state of growth and some have more severe problems than others.) <4> **be patient with everyone.** (be longsuffering or long-tempered –impact of Spiritual Love—be Filled with the Holy Spirit)
- 15 <5> **See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but** <6> **always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.** (The gospel and Spiritual Love)

- 16 **Rejoice always;** (in power of the Holy Spirit)
- 17 **pray without ceasing;** (in the Holy Spirit)
- 18 **in everything give thanks;** (in the Holy Spirit) **for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.** (walk worthy of the Lord)
- 19 **Do not quench the Spirit;** (purposefully sinning)
- 20 **do not despise prophetic utterances.** (Learn prophecy)
- 21 **But examine everything *carefully*;** (examine their teaching) **hold fast to that which is good;**
- 22 **abstain from every form of evil.** (doctrine, physical activity, relationship with One Another)
- 23 **Now may the God of peace Himself** (God the Father) **sanctify you** (experientially) **entirely;** (everyone in the assembly) **and may your spirit and soul and body** (every believer in JESUS CHRIST is Trichotomous) **be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Rapture*)**
- 24 **Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.**
- 25 **Brethren, pray for us.**
- 26 **Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.**
- 27 **I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.**
- 28 **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.**

**Whatever we do,
We should do it
AS UNTO THE LORD!**

-----CHORUS-----

**I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
His eye is on the sparrow,
And I know He watches me.**

-----VERSE-----

**"Let not your heart be troubled,"
His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path He leadeth,
but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.**