

W @ K L J P r a J @ r J O U r n a l

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITTAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)	Lord's Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

M a t t h @ W 6: 9-13

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

"Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the Church of the Thessalonians..."

1 Thessalonians 1:1

NOVEMBER 4 -10, 2007

THE LORD'S DAY - This week will begin a new verse by verse study from the Epistles to the Thessalonians. We will look specifically at **1 Thessalonians 1:1** and give a general introduction to these two Epistle's. Many people turn to the Epistles to the Thessalonians when studying the end times and prophecy. This is fine but what must not be overlooked is that there is a wealth of practical instruction to believers contained in these two books and they are therefore considered to be "church Epistles". As we will see there are great riches in these two Epistles which help to inform and equip the people of God. Read **1 Thessalonians 1:1**

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask the Lord to teach you from His Word this week.*

MONDAY – In the greeting of **verse 1** we find listed for us both the senders and receivers of this first letter. "Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy" are listed in the greeting. The Apostle Paul is the inspired writer, but as is the case in several of his letters he includes his traveling and ministry companions in the greeting and instructions showing the unity and full support of these men. We find much information on the Apostle Paul in the Word of God as he played a large role in the writing of Holy Scripture. We will learn many details concerning the Apostle as we move through these letters but suffice to say, Paul was a man who demonstrated the power and beauty of a life of a Christian that is "filled with The Spirit" (**Ephesians 5:18**). Read of his conversion experience in **Acts 9:1-19**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank the Lord for His marvelous grace that He gives to those who He quickens from spiritual death to life in the miracle of conversion.*

TUESDAY –We see that two of Paul's companions are listed in **verse 1**. "Silvanus", is Silas who we see in Scripture was a prominent member of the

Jerusalem church who also accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey (**Acts 15:30-40**). “*Timothy*”, who is listed next, was probably a native of the city of Lystra (**Acts 16:1-3**). He was Paul’s “*son*” in the faith and was also his protégé (**1 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Timothy 1:2**). Silas and Timothy were men of great loyalty and devotion to both God and their beloved brother in Christ, The Apostle Paul. All three of these men were great men of God who lived, loved, and served God and God’s people with great zeal and passion that should not merely be admired but also emulated.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank God for true brothers and sisters in Christ and ask Him to help you be a more passionate, loyal, and faithful child of His.*

WEDNESDAY – We find the receivers of these letters are listed as “*the church of the Thessalonians...*” The three men we have mentioned earlier were the one’s who founded the church in Thessalonica (**Acts 17:1-4**). Thessalonica, which is today called “Thessaloniki”, was the largest and most important city in the Roman province of Macedonia. It is located at the head of the “Thermaic Gulf” and was a thriving seaport in the days of these letters. There were many Jews living there and we read they had a synagogue where Paul began to minister “as was his custom” (see again -**Acts 17**). As mentioned, Thessalonica was positioned in such a way that it proved to be a “great highway” for the spreading of the gospel. We see the design in God’s plan as He brought the good news of the gospel to a place which served pivotal in its spreading to other places. God is never short for answers or means to fulfill His Sovereign plan.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Praise God for His mighty, sovereign power and plan. Thank Him that by grace and mercy He included you in the plan of Redemption.*

THURSDAY –Now that we have a little background concerning the writer and receiver of the book Thessalonians, as well as the city itself we turn to the first **verse** of **chapter 1**. We find Paul uses the word “*ekklesia*” (the called out ones) to describe the Divine election of these saints and we then read of their position as being, “*in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ...*” This phrase describes the relationship that exists with all genuine believers; namely, their permanent, lasting union with God the Father and Jesus Christ. Believers experience “*koinonia*”

(shared partnership) with God through a Spiritual union sometimes referred to as a “*mystery*” in Holy Scripture. Believers do not merely know facts about Jesus but they are “*in*” Him. Read about this union in **Galatians 2:20**, and **Colossians 3:3**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank God today that we as believers are actually “hidden with Christ in God”. Ask Him to help you consistently praise Him for such grace.*

FRIDAY –The union of the Believer and God that we mentioned yesterday is elaborated throughout Scripture in various texts which speak of the indwelling of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and The Holy Spirit within the Believer (**Romans 8:9-11, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 2 Timothy 1:14**). We also see that Paul emphasizes the equality and unity of the Godhead by using the single preposition “*in*” only one time. Paul also expressed the entire redemptive work of Jesus Christ by using His full name and title as “Lord” (Sovereign ruler), “Jesus” (Savior), and “Christ” (anointed one). What an incredible thought to think that as children of God, through the redemptive work of The Son, The Holy Trinity lives within us and we share in a Divine and eternal life.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Meditate today on the wonderful truth that God lives within you as a Christian and we have been made “partakers” of such Divine blessing.*

SATURDAY –The salutation of **verse 1** continues in familiar Pauline style as he says, “*Grace to you and Peace...*” All the things we have seen thus far explaining our position in Christ as Children of God are made possible by the grace and peace made available by God Himself. God has lavished “*grace*” (undeserved favor) to us as sinners in granting us forgiveness of our sin and eternal life to come as well as an amazing and wonderful “*peace*”. We receive not only an eternal “*peace*” with God that frees us from guilt and removes our condemnation but also a “*peace*” in this present life that keeps our hearts and minds fixed and secure in God. Read **Romans 8:1, Philippians 4:7**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Lord God, thank You for such wonderful promises made possible and given to us freely by Your grace through Your work on the cross Jesus.*