

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

**DAILY BIBLE STUDIES**

*"The Fruit of The Elect"*

*1 Thessalonians 1:2-7*

**NOVEMBER 11 -17, 2007**

**THE LORD'S DAY** - Last week we began our study of **1 Thessalonians** with an introduction that among other things outlined the senders of the letter as well as recipients. This week as we continue on in the first chapter we will see Paul describe and identify the "fruits" that are and were evident in the lives of "The Elect" of God. The Thessalonians demonstrated these qualities that are an evidence of their calling by God unto salvation. As we study, ask yourself if these qualities or "fruits" are evident in your life as a professing Christian. Read **1 Thessalonians 1:2-7**.

*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** –Paul begins **verse 2** by saying that the he and his companions were truly thankful to God for the fruits that were being manifested in the lives of the Thessalonians. As an Apostle of Jesus Christ his desire was that these people would grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus and it is evident by his words that they were doing just that, which in turn thrilled him. Paul then in the next several verses lays out a trio of Christian virtues which are evidences of the work of God in the lives of these believers. The virtues mentioned are favorites of The Apostle as we find he uses them in other portions of Holy Scripture. The virtues are listed in **verse 3** and are summarized as *"work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ..."* Read **1 Corinthians 13:13, Colossians 1:4-5, 1 Thessalonians 5:8**.

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

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask God to help you evaluate your life to see if these three Godly, Christ like virtues are evident there. Ask Him to help you have and live them.*

**TUESDAY** –The first "fruit" that Paul mentions and says he was *"remembering without ceasing"* is their *"work of faith"*. Boiled right down he was saying they had a working faith or a faith that was alive and gave evidence of life. A truly regenerate

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

person will have a faith centered in the Lord Jesus Christ that produces a changed and transformed life. This is no way saying that a person's work saves them for The Scripture is clear as well as The Apostle Paul in various other portions that "faith alone" saves. But as that is true so also is the fact that a genuine faith that saves is never dormant or "alone" but is always accompanied by what the Scripture calls "good works". Faith that saves is apart from our works (**Romans 3:20, 28**), it is produced by The Word of God (**Romans 10:17**), it results in God ordained good works (**Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 2:13**), and is never a faith that doesn't "work" (**James 2:14-26**).

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Ask God to help you daily live out a working faith that is produced by the work of The Spirit in you through the powerful Word of God.*

**WEDNESDAY** –The next thing Paul mentions which identified the Election of these Thessalonians and also is a fruit present in the lives of all those who are in Christ Jesus is their "labor of love". Genuine salvation is expressed through the life of a converted sinner in the fact they have a love for others. This virtue is the first listed in the "fruit of the Spirit" found in **Galatians 5**. Love is a foundational virtue which identifies those who are born again. Believers love God (**1 Corinthians 2:9, 8:3**), they love each other (**1 Peter 1:22, 1 John 2:10**), and they love other's even including their enemies (**Matthew 5:44**). There are many other Scriptures which point this out and we will see them God willing this Lord's Day. Notice also this was a "labor of love". The Greek word used here emphasizes an intense, wearying toil leading to the point of exhaustion. Is this how you "love"?

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Dear God, cultivate this love within me by Your Spirit and help me to demonstrate this to others just as Jesus did by His example.*

**THURSDAY** –Paul continues to identify The Elect by listing the fruit of their "patience of hope in the Lord Jesus Christ..." All true Christians have a hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. This "confident expectation" is frequently spoken of in God's Word. Its pinnacle is found in the anticipation of the return of Jesus Christ which Paul calls "The Blessed Hope" in **Titus 2:11-13**. We as believers live a life of hope. These Thessalonians demonstrated a hope that was "patient" or steadfast, constant, and enduring. They, like all Christians everywhere have a hope that perseveres. One Greek Lexicon defines this as follows: "in the NT the

characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings". Believers will evidence this "hope". Read **Matthew 24:13, Proverbs 4:18, Hebrews 6:10-11**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Thank God for the confident expectation we have through Salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ. Ask Him to help you "hope to the end".*

**FRIDAY** –Verse 4 reminds us that these previous virtues are marks of those who have been saved as The Elect of God. The NASB translates this phrase "knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you". Much could be said concerning this phrase and we have looked at this great doctrine many times. Just meditate on those words and praise God! As Paul continues he elaborates in **verse 5** on the conversion of these people. Paul says in this verse that mere words of the gospel, though necessary to communicate the message, are powerless without the aid of the Holy Spirit of God. The message comes by the Word of God (**Romans 10:17**), but only when the Word is accompanied by the power of God, does this Gospel truth save a soul. God prepares, empowers, and quickens the dead soul bringing it to life by Divine power. Read **1 Peter 1:22-25, 1 Corinthians 4:20, Ephesians 2:1-5**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Praise God for His "choice of you" and also for His mighty power which alone awakened your dead, sinful soul to the beauty of the Gospel.*

**SATURDAY** –Verses 6-7 explain to us that genuine Christians emulate and are "followers of us and The Lord". Christians "follow" ("mimetai"—Greek) or mimic and imitate Jesus Christ in their actions. These believers here in our text "received the Word in much affliction". They were not living on easy street and yet in spite of tribulation, they found their joy in God and by The Holy Spirit's power lived in such a way they became "examples". They were models for others to see of what the Lord Jesus does to a life that is regenerated by Him. They bore "The Fruit of The Elect". Read **Romans 6:3-4, 2 Corinthians 3:18**.

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

*Suggestion for prayer: Dear God, help me to gaze on the glory of Jesus Christ and by Your Spirit and grace may I be transformed more and more into that glorious image.*